

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Middle East & North Africa*

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ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI Interviews Foreign Minister C 1
Oil Minister Views Cooperation With W. Europe C 1

UAE

Information Minister Receives PLO Representative C 1
AL-WAHDAH Comments on Egyptian-Israeli Talks C 2

YEMEN--PDRY

New Cabinet Reportedly To Be Formed C 3

YEMEN--YAR

Further Details Given on Attempted Coup in YAR C 3
President Receives Shaykhs' Pledges of Support C 3
PDRY Liberation Front Leader Leaves Cairo for San'a' C 4
U.S., Iranian Advisers Reportedly Increasing Influence C 4

EGYPT

Media Reports Washington Talks, Delegation Activities D 1
Cairo Radio Report D 1
MENA Report D 2
Radio Analyst on Carter's Role in Middle East Peace D 2
Writer Assails Iraq, Syria for Camp David Views [AL-AKHBAR 10 Oct] D 3
Cairo Comments on Egyptian Post-Peace Economy D 4
As-Sadat Addresses African Social Insurance Conference D 5
Ghali Grants Interview to OCTOBER Magazine D 7

IRAQ

Palestinian Rejectionists Conclude Visit to Iraq E 1
Oil Minister Comments on Baghdad Summit, Oil Prices E 1
Lectures on Oil Industry E 2
President al-Bakr Speaks About Industry at Baghdad Fair E 2

JORDAN

Talks With Harold Saunders Begin in Amman F 1
3-Hour Meeting Held F 1
Premier Addresses National Consultative Council F 1
Queries to U.S. Administration Reported F 3
AD-DUSTUR Gives Expectations of U.S. Answers to Husayn F 5
[Amman AD-DUSTUR 17 Oct]
Husayn's Reported Invitation to W. Bank Leaders Denied F 7
Crown Prince Hasan Leaves for Moscow F 7

LEBANON

Arab Leaders Conferring in Search of Lebanese Solution	G 1
Sarkis Sees Phalangist Leaders [Voice of Lebanon]	G 1
Sarkis, Al-Faysal Comment	G 1
Saudi Minister Meets Leaders	G 1
Syria's Khaddam, Junblatt Meet	G 2
Damascus Reports Junblatt Comments	G 2
Meetings, Consultations Continue	G 3
Minister Says Working Paper Ready	G 3
Phalangists Address Open Letter [Voice of Lebanon]	G 4
Beirut Radio Reports Further	G 7
VOL: Sham'un Pessimistic on Outcome	G 10
Sham'un Criticizes French Foreign Minister's Statement [Voice of Lebanon]	G 10
Chamber of Deputies Reelects Speaker Al-As'ad	G 11
Interior Minister To Visit Sudan on Official Mission	G 11
VOL: Sniping Intensifies in Beirut Area	G 11
VOL: Italian Embassy Advises Italians To Leave	G 11
Newspaper Reports on Possible Israeli-NATO Operation	G 11

SYRIA

President al-Asad Postpones Visit to Hungary	H 1
Soviet Peace Delegation Arrives in Damascus	H 1
Libya Sending Sophisticated Soviet-Made Weapons	H 1
Steadfastness Front Foreign Ministers To Meet in Damascus	H 2
Damascus Radio Demands Expelling Egypt From Arab League	H 2

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Paris Cites Reports on Boumediene's Whereabouts, Health	I 1
Algiers Reports Further on Boumediene's USSR Visit	I 1

LIBYA

Brigadier Jabir Receives PLO Leader 'Arafat	I 1
'Arafat Departs	I 1

MAURITANIA

Government Denies Rumors of Saharan Settlement	I 2
Communique Issued After Minister's Senegal Visit	I 2

MOROCCO

Ministry Denies Secret Negotiations on Sahara	I 3
Boucetta Receives UK Foreign Minister Judd	I 3

SUDAN

Parliamentary Bodies Study Camp David Agreements	I 4
--	-----

TUNISIA

Fatah Leaders Leave Tunis After Consultations	I 4
---	-----

WESTERN SAHARA

153 Civilians Reportedly Released by POLISARIO

I 4

ISRAEL

Israeli-Egyptian Talks Make Progress; Agreement Imminent	N 1
Rabin Calls Post-Treaty Years 'Testing Period'	N 1
Sharon Calls For Fleshing Out of Settlements	N 2
[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 12 Oct]	
West Bank Notables Reject Autonomy Plan	N 2
Rallies Organized in West Bank For, Against Autonomy	N 3
HA'AREZ on Feasibility of Autonomy in West Bank [15 Oct]	N 3
East Jerusalem Paper Attacks Husayn Supporters	N 5
AL-QUDS Urges Arabs To Exploit Freedom of Speech, Assembly [15 Oct]	N 5
Plans Laid For Resumption of Settlement Activities	N 6
Yiga'el Yadin Comments on Peace Agreements, Treaty	N 8
Judaea, Samaria	N 8
HA'AREZ Questions Israeli Cabinet's Credibility [13 Oct]	N 8
Labor Party Members Comment on Joining Government [HA'AREZ 12 Oct]	N 10
Peres, Talmi Deny Alinement Seeks To Join Government [DAVAR 15 Oct]	N 11
Gur, Herzog Reportedly Ready To Join Labor Bureau [MA'ARIV 12 Oct]	N 12
23 Terrorist Squads Seized So Far in 1978 ['AL HAMISHMAR 15 Oct]	N 12
Briefs: New Danish Ambassador	N 12

IRAN

2 Die in Minab Demonstration; Tehran Shops Closed	R 1
Minister of State Regrets Riot Deaths	R 1
Plan, Budget Staff Ends Strike	R 2
Tehran Reports Further Details of Strikes	R 2

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

AFP: Foreign Residents Need Permission To Leave Kabul	S 1
Foreign Minister Interviewed by READER'S DIGEST Editor	S 1

INDIA

Delhi: Pakistan Interested in Joint Industrial Ventures	S 6
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PAKISTAN

Karachi Denies Considering Joint Venture With India	S 6
Spokesman on F-5 Deal With U.S., Indian Reaction	S 7
Agha Shahi: Pakistan 'Disillusioned' With CENTO	S 7
AFP: Scores Arrested on PPP 'National Day of Protest'	S 7
Authorities Order Crackdown on Irresponsible Press	S 8

KUWAIT

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER

LD141126Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah confirmed that the gulf cannot be separate from the security issues in the rest of the Arab countries. He said in an interview with the Paris-based AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI--a summary of which was published today by AS-SIYASAH--that coordination is not in the interest or to the advantage of any party.

With regard to the citizenship law, the foreign minister said that the state is taking an interest in this issue and cares very much for those who have served this country with sincerity and loyalty. Answering a question, the foreign minister said that Kuwait's interests are paramount and that the state wants every person to live in this country with complete security and cause disruption and create problems in the country. He said that Kuwait had not expelled anyone merely on the basis of suspicions and that he refuses to expell anyone unless he himself is convinced that his presence is not in the interest of the country and its security.

OIL MINISTER VIEWS COOPERATION WITH W. EUROPE

LD131726Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah has stated that the Arab oil exporting countries will try to settle their differences with the countries of Western Europe through talks. However, he has warned of the possibility of reducing oil shipments if the West tries to restrict Arab industrial expansion. Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, current chairman of OAPEC, was speaking at a press conference in Brussels following his talks with the European commissioner for energy problems, Mr Brunner.

The oil minister said: The Arab exporting countries welcomed the establishment of a new European monetary system. He went on to say that the subject of linking oil prices with a basket of currencies may be discussed at the next meeting of OPEC, in December.

Mr Brunner stated that the European Common Market and OPEC will in the future carry our consultations to plan their policy connected with oil refining.

UAE

INFORMATION MINISTER RECEIVES PLO REPRESENTATIVE

JN170955Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 17 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 October--UAE Minister of Information and Culture Ahmad ibn Hamid met here this morning with PLO representative to the UAE Ribhi 'Awad.

At the end of the meeting, 'Awad stated that he explained to the UAE minister of information and culture the Palestinian position following the Camp David agreements.

He also reviewed with Hamid the situation in the area, the urgent tasks for joint Arab action and the spheres of coordination between the UAE Ministry of Information and Culture and the PLO in the information field.

AL-WAHDAH COMMENTS ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS

JN141108Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 October--The newspaper AL-WAHDAH discusses in its editorial the current Egyptian-Israeli talks in Washington.

The paper calls for dealing with the causes leading to Egypt's exclusion from the Arab ranks. Such an exclusion requires strengthening the military and economic potentials of the countries of the northern front and the military participation of second-line countries to protect the northern front from any blows which would wipe out any hopes of protecting the Arab homeland and regaining the occupied territories.

The following is the text of the editorial:

The statements which preceded the Egyptian-Israeli talks in Washington have practically erased all hopes of Egypt's returning to the ranks. At the same time, these statements show determination to proceed with the implementation of the present plan, which is aimed primarily at creating a state of permanent division among Arab countries for very well-known reasons.

It is certain now that having signed the Camp David agreements, which do not differ much in their content from the agreements of surrender signed by Germany and Japan at the end of World War II, Egypt will agree to any conditions to be imposed by Israel. This will be done in complete cooperation with the United States which participated fully in the talks and exploited to the maximum the 99 percent of the cards for a solution which As-Sadat placed in Washington's hands, thus enabling the United States to achieve the Zionist objectives.

It is likely that the current talks will be held for formality's sake after the statements by Egyptian officials that Egypt will not return from Washington without a peace treaty. The latest and most dangerous of these statements was that by the Egyptian planning minister, who stated that Egypt no longer considers Israel to be a weapons arsenal but a benefactor and that Egypt is ready to cooperate with Israel in agriculture, desalinization and solar energy, and to provide Israel with Sinai oil.

These regrettable facts require a review of what has taken or is taking place in the Arab area. There must also be a remedy to the dangerous situation caused by Egypt's exclusion from the Arab ranks. Naturally, this calls for strengthening the military and economic potentials of the northern front countries and for the military participation of second-line countries to prevent the fulfillment of objectives aimed at dealing a blow to this front and wiping out any hope of protecting the Arab homeland and regaining the occupied territories.

V. 17 Oct 78

C 3

ARABIAN PENINSULA

YEMEN--PDRY

NEW CABINET REPORTEDLY TO BE FORMED

NC161122Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] San'a', 16 October--It was learned from reliable sources today that 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the chairman of the National Front in South Yemen, has charged Prime Minister 'Abdallah al-Khamiri with the formation of a new cabinet in Aden. It was also learned that al-Khamiri will not include Interior Minister Col Salih Muslih in the new cabinet.

It is known that the present interior minister was involved in the assassination of former YAR President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. The assassination took place last June.

YEMEN--YAR

FURTHER DETAILS GIVEN ON ATTEMPTED COUP IN YAR

TA161626Y Paris AFP in English 1620 GMT 16 Oct 78 TA

[Text] San'a', Oct 16 (AFP)--The home of North Yemeni President 'Ali Abdallah Salih was destroyed and nine senior army officers were killed in yesterday's attempted coup d'etat, a reliable source said here today.

Four military battalions staged the abortive coup, the source added, sparking fierce fighting beginning at dawn yesterday. The rebels used a wide variety of weapons as well as tanks, he added.

Although the coup attempt was crushed early today, sporadic exchanges of gunfire were still heard several hours later in San'a' and its suburbs.

Observers said it was hard to predict when all fighting would end.

Several arrests have been made in the ranks of North Yemeni senior officers, a well informed source said. One of those arrested was Captain (Muhsi Ali Salih), chief of the military police, he said.

The official North Yemeni radio station continued broadcasting normally today, announcing the arrests of the leaders of the coup attempt while reporting on the president's trip to Hudaydah, the Red Sea port east of here that he was visiting when the rebellion occurred.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES SHAYKHS' PLEDGES OF SUPPORT

LD170200Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Oct 78 LD/EA

[Text] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, today received a large number of shaykhs, who assured him of their support for the government [words indistinct]. The brother president expressed thanks for their understanding of the situation, adding that securing the revolution and the republic was the responsibility of all.

V. 17 Oct 78

C 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

PDRY LIBERATION FRONT LEADER LEAVES CAIRO FOR SAN'A'

NC161752Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT 15 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 October, 'Abd al-Qawi al-Makkawi, leader of the Front for the Liberation of South Yemen, left Cairo for San'a' at noon today on a visit of several days to the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR].

Before leaving, Al-Makkawi said that the purpose of his visit is to hold discussions with YAR officials, particularly President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, on matters of mutual interest related to South Yemen. He added: I will also meet with my brother strugglers in the YAR before announcing the formation of a government-in-exile--a step which will lead us to national unity.

Al-Makkawi said: We plan to have influential elements participate in the proposed government. These elements are still in South Yemen and hold sensitive positions. We do not wish to reveal their identities now.

'Abd al-Qawi al-Makkawi said that he is justified in setting up a government-in-exile because two-thirds of the people are in exile and the remaining one-third, who are in the country, are not satisfied with the regime there. Moreover, most of the Arab League member states have severed relations with Aden and the Aden regime has thus become isolated from the Arab world.

The front leader concluded his statement by saying that he will then visit the other Arab states where people from South Yemen reside.

U.S., IRANIAN ADVISERS REPORTEDLY INCREASING INFLUENCE

WA161516 London REUTER in English 1453 GMT 16 Oct 78 WA

[Text] Aden, Oct 16, REUTER--South Yemen's official newspaper charged today that United States and Iranian advisers and experts were in North Yemen and were growing constantly in number and influence.

The 14 OCTOBER newspaper made the charge following reports that an attempted anti-government coup in North Yemen had been launched yesterday but was crushed after fierce fighting in the capital of San'a'.

A leftist North Yemeni opposition group, the National Democratic Front (NDF), today confirmed the reports of a coup attempt and reported, without details, that there had been several deaths in clashes in and around North Yemeni Armed Forces Headquarters in San'a'.

The South Yemeni newspaper said that there was a "wide gap" between North Yemen's people and their leaders whom it accused of "ruling their country on behalf of others."

The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reported today that North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salih had flown secretly to Saudi Arabia yesterday to discuss the situation.

Arab diplomatic sources in the Jordanian capital of Amman said last night that the coup attempt had been put down by air force planes.

MEDIA REPORTS WASHINGTON TALKS, DELEGATION ACTIVITIES

Cairo Radio Report

NC162101Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] The committee which is drafting a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, which includes legal advisers, resumed its meetings at 1600 Cairo time today. The meeting, which continued until 1730, was attended on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Abdallah al-'Iryan and Adviser 'Amri Musa, on the U.S. side by Michael Sterner and on the Israeli side by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

George Sherman, spokesman for the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, said that Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman held a meeting to discuss military matters. He said that the talks which took place at their meeting yesterday were private and nothing is known about them yet. He said that these talks were attended by Maj Gen Taha al-Majdub on the Egyptian side and by General Tamir on the Israeli side.

Sherman also said that U.S. Middle East envoy Alfred Atherton met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and some members of the Egyptian delegation. He added that the talks among the three delegations will resume in Blair House tomorrow. He said that progress continued at today's meetings, that the discussions have succeeded in bringing views closer and in ironing out some differences and that the meetings took place in a serious and organized atmosphere. He said: We cannot predict the success of the talks until all differences have been overcome.

Replying to a question, Sherman said that the treaty has many economic and political aspects. He said that the informal talks on the general framework of the treaty are continuing.

Replying to another question, he said that the United States is committed to finding a complete and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and that the two Camp David accords are part of the efforts being made in this respect.

Replying to a question on whether he had discussed with the Egyptian and Israeli sides the answers which were sent to King Husayn, the official spokesman said that the answers were presented by the U.S. side only and had not been presented to any other side.

Replying to a question on the kind of progress achieved and whether it was rapid or slow, Sherman said that all parties concerned have expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the talks.

Defense Minister Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali held a meeting during dinner last night with the Arab ambassadors in Washington. During the meeting, which took place at the Egyptian Embassy, there was an exchange of views as well as a review of the recent developments in the situation and the progress achieved so far in the talks currently taking place in the U.S. capital.

Meanwhile, an Israeli source in Washington has described last night's meeting between Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman as a turning point in the negotiations aimed at the signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The source said that the meeting dealt in particular with the link between the two Camp David accords.

An Israeli source in Washington said that during the negotiations the Egyptians have been demanding U.S. support for a timetable on the implementation of the first accord on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

MENA Report

NC162040Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1933 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 16 October--The Egyptian delegation to the peace talks held a meeting under defense minister and delegation leader Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali in Blair House this afternoon. It made a general review of the situation.

The MENA correspondent in Washington has learned that the review included several points. The most important point was the assessment of the work of the committees and the working groups formed by the delegation to deal with various aspects, including military and legal affairs, drafting procedures and the coordination of the work of the various committees.

The conferees also reviewed the results of the informal contacts carried out by the Egyptian delegation during the weekend, including the results of the meetings between Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, as well as the meetings between Acting Foreign Minister Dr Butrus Ghali and Israeli foreign minister and delegation leader Moshe Dayan.

During the meeting, a general review was made of the situation in light of what has been achieved so far. Preparations for the next phase of the talks were also discussed.

Spokesman for the Egyptian delegation Muhammad Haqqi said that the talks have been proceeding in a constructive manner from the very beginning and that good progress has been made, thanks to the principles of the framework worked out at the Camp David summit and the role the United States is playing in bringing the various viewpoints closer and in presenting its own proposals from time to time.

RADIO ANALYST ON CARTER'S ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE

NC160745Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani analysis of U.S. President Carter's role in finding a lasting Middle East settlement]

[Text] U.S. President Carter has proved that he intends to continue to make headway on the path leading to the achievement of peace in the Middle East with full U.S. participation. President Carter emphasized this position prior to the convening of the Camp David summit conference, during the conference, and then in the speech opening the present discussions taking place in Washington on peace in the Middle East. The U.S. President has also stressed the link between the two frameworks of the two Camp David agreements, specifically the link between the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the overall settlement of the crisis.

Today President Carter will send to King Husayn of Jordan a high-level special envoy; namely, Harold Saunders, who will present the U.S. President's replies to the questions which King Husayn had asked the U.S. Government about the two Camp David agreements.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Harold Saunders has also been assigned to answer any additional questions which the Jordanian king might want to ask on this matter.

In an interview with some U.S. newspaper publishers, President Carter has affirmed that he is convinced that with the mere signing of an Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement nothing will halt the peace process in the Middle East, that there are no contradictions between this treaty and the observance of the pledges made concerning the Arab people's cause, and that the Arab states will successively sign the peace treaty.

Since the beginning of the Blair House conference, the U.S. State Department spokesman has constantly reminded his interlocutors that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty under negotiation is an integral part of the two Camp David agreements. The spokesman also affirmed that a dialog continues with Jordan and that the U.S. President attaches great importance to the Saunders trip.

Observers connect the Saunders mission with the contact made with King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who is now in the United States for medical treatment. Observers note that U.S. President Carter will convey to His Majesty King Khalid the replies to King Husayn's questions.

Meanwhile, a U.S. State Department spokesman has said that the Washington negotiations on peace in the Middle East are proceeding seriously. Although the spokesman has not denied that there are differences in viewpoints, he added, that it has been possible to reach agreement on some points.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, head of Egypt's delegation to the Washington discussions, explained at the opening session that the holding of these discussions in the U.S. capital confirms the U.S. commitment to playing the role of a partner in the efforts being exerted to achieve a settlement.

WRITER ASSAILS IRAQ, SYRIA FOR CAMP DAVID VIEWS

LD161351Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Oct 78 p 6 LD

[By Admad Zayn]

[Text] If we really wish to live in the modern age, to treat the world respectfully and be treated respectfully by it we must behave in a manner that wins us respect and does not portray us to the world as an Arab nation governed by whims and selfish interests rather than by real interests and divided by differences over leadership instead of being united by a common objective.

Let us take, for example, the Iraqi Government's invitation to an Arab summit to discuss the results of the Camp David conference, on the pretext that such results are harmful to the rights of the Palestinian people. In other words, Baghdad is saying that ending Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza is harmful to the interests of the Palestinian people and that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank and Gaza to specified points is also harmful to the Palestinian people's interests. The participation of Palestinians in the negotiations to determine their future and the establishment of their own state is also harmful to the interests of the Palestinian people.

The Iraqi rulers make rhetorical statements and rousing speeches as a means of evading any confrontation with Israel. The withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the battlefield in 1973 is one of many instances known to the Arab world.

The strange thing is that what is happening in Lebanon is considered by Iraq and the rejectionist states as being in the interest of the Palestinian people and serving the Arab cause. The massacre of Lebanese and Palestinians is in the interest of the Arabs and the occupation by one Arab country--Syria--of another Arab country--Lebanon--by force is something in the interest of the Arab nation. Devoting the entire Syrian Army and all its weapons and equipment to exterminating the Palestinians in the massacres of Tall az-Za'tar and Beirut and then turning that army toward exterminating both Moslems and Christians in Lebanon also serves the Arab cause.

On the other hand the Syrian Ba'th Party did not offer a single soldier or fire a single shot against the Israeli forces which attacked southern Lebanon, because President al-Asad, considered the attack on the south and the massacre of Palestinians to be in the interest of the Arab cause. Therefore, he stood watching and did not offer a single soldier in defense of the Palestinians.

Had President al-Asad devoted half the efforts, money and lives that he wasted in Lebanon to the liberation of the Golan he would have won the respect of the Arabs. Yet, while claiming to be the state of steadfastness and to be preparing to confront Israel, he sends his army to kill Palestinians and Lebanese civilians. Syrian artillery has mercilessly bombarded children, women and old people as they took shelter in their homes, helpless and unable to defend themselves.

Nevertheless, the Arab countries have not made a move to save the Palestinians and Arabs in Lebanon or to stop this terrible massacre, whose only purpose is to satisfy Syria's ambition of occupying and colonizing Lebanon.

I pity some of the Arab leaders who still live in the mentality of the past, place their own interests above the national interests and let Arab blood be shed and thousands be killed in Lebanon while they devote all their time and their broadcasting to attacking an agreement that achieves an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

This is tantamount to joking at a time of seriousness, to buffoonery at a moment when history is being made; this is shallow and selfish thinking when unity among the Arabs and their stand behind the Camp David agreements could lead to the first real Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories in 30 years.

What can one say about disputes over leadership and broadcasters who trades on liberation slogans? What can one say to those whose only interest is gold and trading in Arab blood?

CAIRO COMMENTS ON EGYPTIAN POST-PEACE ECONOMY

NC161533Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Sahiy ad-Din Shu'aytu commentary]

[Excerpts] Some people, with good or bad intentions or from lack of self-confidence, now enjoy arousing the fears of the masses about the perils of the upcoming peace with Israel.

When these people found out that the framework of the accord will restore to Egypt its sovereignty over all Sinai after Israel withdraws from it under the framework for a comprehensive and durable peace in the area, they began to play the tune that the upcoming peace will allow the Israeli economy to devour the Egyptian economy.

We are raising the subject of the fears which are being aroused by some people not because it is an issue worthy of debate but because we want all the facts to be clear to all, far removed from the confusion of those with good intentions or those who lack self-confidence.

Those who are trying to cast doubts and arouse fears about the possibility of the Israeli economy devouring the Egyptian economy are thinking with the pre-October mentality and thus are once again repeating the defeatist tunes which spread despondency as if the sun of October had not dissipated all the darkness we were in.

These people who are propagating such ideas must realize--as we approach a completely new phase in which we shall rebuild Egypt in an atmosphere of a comprehensive, just and durable peace--that despondent ideas have no place among us because we have rid ourselves of all the complexes, especially the one that we are smaller than others, particularly Israel.

We must also realize that our national economy is no longer a choice morsel for any power whatsoever. We have laws, measures and creative brains that will protect our resources and economy from any harm.

We must realize that we have announced the economic open door policy and have allowed those who are richer and more progressive than Israel to have dealings with us. Moreover, we have not heard so far that any economic power has been able to work in the economic field except according to the will of independent Egypt, which is conscious of its goals and national interests.

We have had enough of defeatist calls. We have had enough of lack of self-confidence. We must receive the phase of the upcoming peace with more respect for ourselves and our civilization than ever in the past. Our will prevailed on the battlefield and will be the higher will prevailing throughout the arena of peace.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES AFRICAN SOCIAL INSURANCE CONFERENCE

NC161418Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1222 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 October--President Anwar as-Sadat has addressed a message to the Sixth African Conference for Social Insurance, which began its activities in Cairo today. The following is the text of President as-Sadat's message to the conference, which was read on his behalf by the minister of insurance and social affairs, Amal 'Uthman:

Dear brothers and sisters: On the occasion of the opening of the Sixth African Conference for Social Insurance in Cairo, it gives me pleasure to greet and welcome you in the land of Egypt. I take this opportunity to extend to all the African peoples a greeting of appreciation and pride for their brave stands in support of the just peace we seek.

The holding of this conference in Cairo is undoubtedly one of the signs of the unity of the struggle and the unity of the interests and hopes which unite the peoples of Africa to achieve the well-being and prosperity of man.

The increasing interest in the questions of social insurance has become one of the characteristics of the age throughout the world merely because social insurance means, in very brief words, social peace. It means the honoring of man and respecting his humanism in the various stages of life and under all circumstances. It means collaboration among members of the same society and the establishment of security and safety for all peoples.

It is our duty as African peoples and states not to lag behind the procession and to make quick strides to adopt integrated and effective social insurance regulations and to develop the existing regulations by benefiting from the experiments and experience of the more advance states and by making sure that our outlook toward social insurance goes beyond the mere securing of a salary. We must not separate our conditions from the existing local conditions and capacities which govern the progress of work in every state.

I would like to draw your attention to the great importance of establishing an effective cooperation among the social insurance organs on the level of the African Continent through the exchange of ideas, studies, expertise and experiments on the basis that our conditions and problems are very similar.

We in Egypt have a long experience in the field of social insurance. This experience dates back more than 125 years during which the regulations on salaries passed through periods of prosperity and periods of depression. This state of affairs continued until the outbreak of the 23 July 1952 revolution when the stage of adopting integrated social insurance regulations began.

Since I assumed the responsibilities of the government in Egypt in 1970, I gave top priority to the question of expanding social insurance coverage to include all members of Egyptian society. I made this a top goal for the state in order that the matter might go beyond the mere issuance of social legislation by providing actual insurance coverage and insuring the continuous development of the regulations and the simplification of administrative measures.

Despite the economic difficulties which Egypt has suffered and is suffering as a direct result of the burdens of wars and their afflictions, we have made good progress in providing actual insurance coverage to all citizens, whether directly or indirectly, because of our insistence on achieving this goal and due to the vigilance of the people and their eagerness to safeguard the insurance rights and gains which the state has guaranteed.

Egypt is continuing its march. I will not rest until I see every Egyptian man and woman enjoying a suitable salary and full care in case of illness, unemployment, old age, disability and death.

I invite you to study the Egyptian experiment, particularly the comprehensive social insurance system, the philosophy of which is based on the traditions and nobility of the Egyptian village and the social collaboration which binds its members on all occasions. By studying and analyzing our experiments, you might perhaps find something worthy of attention and which is beneficial to man in general and the African way in particular.

V. 17 Oct 78

D 7

EGYPT

Brothers and sisters, I have read with great interest the agenda of your conference and the topics submitted to you for discussion and study. They are all vital and very important subjects. I hope you will achieve the desired aims through your constructive cooperation and open mind.

I wish the conference every success. I also wish you a happy stay as dear guests and brothers in Egypt. May God grant you success and God's peace and blessings be with you.

GHALI GRANTS INTERVIEW TO OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC151303Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 15 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 October--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has emphasized that the Palestinian people alone have the right to decide on the question of sovereignty over their land. He said that the Egyptian negotiator was very clear in emphasizing this point throughout the Camp David talks.

Dr Ghali explained that the framework for a comprehensive solution agreed upon in Camp David inherently implies a recognition of the Arab right to sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza. He said that there are [word indistinct] confirming this, including Israel's agreement to end the military government and the civilian administration, to withdraw the Israeli military forces, to negotiate with the Arab sides the establishment of specific bases to insure Israel's security, to have a strong Palestinian force established to maintain internal security and order in the West Bank and Gaza and to suspend the construction of settlements during the negotiations period.

In an interview published in OCTOBER magazine today, Dr Ghali referred to the question of the transitional authority and the referendum on the West Bank and Gaza. He emphasized that the Israeli settlers have no right to participate in them. They do not even have the right to claim to have this right. He said that the framework for a comprehensive solution was basically drawn up to solve the Palestinian problem and the Palestinian people's problem for which four wars had taken place over a period of 30 years.

Regarding the question of Arab Jerusalem, Dr Ghali said that the question of Jerusalem is contained in the Camp David documents, although it is not mentioned in the framework for a comprehensive solution. He pointed out that the letters and notes exchanged on this subject complement one another and that Egypt's stand on it is very clear.

Regarding the PLO's attitude toward the current peace efforts, Dr. Butrus Ghali said that Egypt is in touch with the PLO through its Cairo office. He explained that the PLO was not mentioned by name in the Camp David framework because the PLO does not so far recognize UN Resolution 242, which is the basis of the two Camp David agreements.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also referred to the Arab summit conferences for which many calls are being made nowadays. He said that the calls for these conferences deserve study just in case they are sincere, but if they are mere maneuvers to conceal the negative and rejectionist attitude of some people, then they will collapse and disappear just as we have grown accustomed to seeing them disappear since the first disengagement until As-Sadat's Jerusalem visit.

PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS CONCLUDE VISIT TO IRAQ

JN161058Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 October--Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front, and Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, left Baghdad today following a 6-day visit to Iraq as part of the delegation representing the Palestinian organizations rejecting the capitulationist solutions.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Samir Ghawshah said that the delegation had sensed the determination and persistence of the command of the party and revolution to confront the Camp David agreement and to undermine its outcome.

He added: We also sensed the command's eagerness to support the struggle of our Palestinian people and to strengthen their steadfastness and struggle to enable them to achieve their short and long-term objectives. He described the Revolution Command Council's decision marshalling Iraq's potential in the northern front as constituting a hard material base for the confrontation front and for gaining Arab and world support to confront the U.S.-Zionist-As-Sadat plot. He said that all this can be achieved by Iraq's political, military and economic weight as well as by its stratetic depth. He added that the decision is bound to open wide horizons to achieve liberation and score victory.

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON BAGHDAD SUMMIT, OIL PRICES

JN150948Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0855 GMT 15 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 15 October--Iraqi Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim has affirmed that the positive results of the Arab summit conference, which will be held in Baghdad, will reflect on the OPEC conference, which will be held in Abu Dhabi in December.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today, Mr 'Abd al-Karim called for the establishment of an independent political body to deal with the subject of oil prices to defend Arab interests. He said that all signs indicate that pinning political hopes on the United States and the dollar is a mirage that the Baghdad summit will seek to dissipate.

The Iraqi oil minister called for placing the various pan-Arab resources at the disposal of the general political situation. He said that Arab oil should play an effective role in the stage of current challenges. He added that the oil weapon has two aspects: The first is the oil revenues to which the Iraqi Revolution Command Council statement referred when it proposed the establishment of a fund with an annual cpital of \$9 billion coming primarily from the Arab oil countries; the second is the oil embargo weapon, which should be brandished if the need arises.

The Iraqi oil minister affirmed that the Baghdad summit is a confrontation summit. He called on the Arab nation to use all of its weapons to abort the results of the Camp David conference. He said that the Camp David summit is a result and not a cause. What is required now is to study ways to abort its results.

Mr 'Abd al-Karim expressed dissatisfaction with the freezing of oil prices. He said that this is no less serious than the capitulationist political positions. He added: At the Abu Dhabi conference, we will not accept a price freeze or a token increase. We want this increase to be fair and logical. It should not be described as an increase but as a price rectification. He added that it has been 2 years since the oil price freeze, and we have imported more than 60 percent inflation.

Mr 'Abd al-Karim pointed out that the actual price of OPEC oil is currently about \$4 per barrel. If compared with the current announced price, one oil barrel loses two-thirds of its buying power due to the deterioration of the dollar and imported inflation.

On the percentage of the increase, Mr 'Abd al-Karim said: If we want genuine compensation, oil prices should be doubled. We certainly take into consideration the situation in the industrial and developing countries and do not want to cause confusion in the world economy. However, this commitment does not justify a token increase. The industrial countries should also bear part of the sacrifice.

Lectures on Oil Industry

JN151603Y Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 October--Mr Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolutionary Command Council member and oil minister, stressed the importance of building an Arab oil industry through launching joint Arab projects.

Lecturing at the technological university here today, the minister said reorganization of the oil operations in the Arab homeland and developing industry and agriculture are bound to serve the Arab masses and deepen their struggle against colonialism and Zionism.

The minister reaffirmed Iraq's position calling for building a new international economic order to put an end to the wide gap between the developing and industrialized nations, enable the developing countries to exploit in a rational manner their wealth and undercut the inflationary effect exported by the imperialist states to the developing nations.

Iraq, the minister said, is working for building an oil industry capable of providing the requisites of the national development plans and achieving the national exploitation of oil.

Mr 'Abd al-Karim noted that oil industry in Iraq witnessed a remarkable development after the July 17 revolution in 1968, by diversifying export terminals, linking oil fields with a central network, ending transport bottlenecks and developing refineries and the use of technology.

PRESIDENT AL-BAKR SPEAKS ABOUT INDUSTRY AT BAGHDAD FAIR

JN151601Y Baghdad INA in English 1505 GMT 15 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 October--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has said that industrial development in Iraq hinges on the development of the Iraqi citizen and his taste of creativeness.

Speaking during a visit to the pavilion of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals at the Baghdad International Fair, the president said that our national industry must assume its distinctive position after its confirmed advances over the past years.

In Iraq, he added, there exist innovative and creative energies capable of actual production in high efficiency and superb skill all goods needed by the countrymen.

During the 90-minute visit, in which he was accompanied by Mr Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade, the president also made some observations and gave directives on the need to expand and develop certain categories of industry.

His excellency listened to a briefing from Minister 'Ali on the industrial successes achieved in the country and on the industrial exhibits displayed in the pavilion.

TALKS WITH HAROLD SAUNDERS BEGIN IN AMMAN

JN161927Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Oct 78 JN

[Text] The first round of Jordanian-U.S. talks began in the prime minister's building this evening as soon as Harold Saunders, assistant U.S. secretary of state, arrived. Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were Mudar Badran, prime minister and foreign minister; His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Dr 'Abd as-Salam al-Majali, minister of education and minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Attending the talks for the U.S. side were Harold Saunders, the U.S. ambassador in Amman and a number of U.S. State Department officials.

The talks will be resumed between the two sides tomorrow, Tuesday.

3-Hour Meeting Held

JN162130Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Oct 78 JN

[Text] The first round of U.S.-Jordanian talks which was held at the office of the prime minister ended today after 3 hours. The Jordanian side, led by Mudar Badran, prime minister and foreign minister, heard the replies of the U.S. Government to the questions raised by the Jordanian Government on the two agreements signed at Camp David and on the U.S. viewpoint on a just, peaceful and comprehensive settlement.

A detailed and preliminary discussion was made of these issues and the talks will be resumed later.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Court; Dr 'Abd as-Salam al-Majali, minister of state for the affairs of the Prime Ministry and minister of education; and Mr Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The meeting was attended on the U.S. side by the U.S. ambassador in Amman and a number of State Department officials.

His Majesty King Husayn will receive Mr Saunders tomorrow and will receive a letter from U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

PREMIER ADDRESSES NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

JN161356Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Oct 78 JN

[Text] During a session of the National Consultative Council today, Prime Minister Mudar Badran made a statement containing the Jordanian position vis-a-vis the current phase and the latest developments in the area. The following is a text of the statement:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate, brother members of the National Consultative Council. I greet you and congratulate you on your safe return to your newly decorated council after a 2-month leave in which events in our area have developed rapidly until they reached this important and serious stage.

During your leave, your esteemed council was kept informed of the firm and basic stands of this country through the meetings which his majesty the king had with the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee and other committee chairmen.

Here we are meeting today in the midst of events to tell our honorable brothers about our adherence to our position which they know very well, to outline the developments of the past few weeks and to answer questions on matters which our brothers would like to know of so we can, together, discuss the requirements of the current important phase and the means to strengthen the steadfastness to achieve our pan-Arab objectives.

During the past 2 years, Jordan has been trying to unify the scattered Arab efforts and to formulate a firm pan-Arab policy which will form the basis of joint Arab action and which the Arabs will back with the resources and strategic position endowed on them by God. Thus, Jordan proposed collective Arab action and the necessity to go to any international conference as a single delegation embracing all Arabs. Jordan also proposed that the Arabs overcome their emotional reactions and reach a specific position taking everything into consideration.

However, for almost 1 year now, the Arab stage has been the scene of serious developments threatening to make new changes in the area, disrupt its unity and throw it to the stormy winds so that nobody will know where it would land in the end.

Jordan played the role it believed in and exerted efforts to reunify the Arab ranks and to bring its Arab brothers together within the framework of studied moves to achieve the pan-Arab objectives and common issues.

His Majesty King Husayn proposed to his brother Arab kings and presidents to hold a summit conference. He presented to them a working paper which guarantees a unified Arab position and the means to tackle the expansionist Israeli aggression and to seek a just and honorable peace.

We have accepted UN Resolution 242 and have cooperated with all the efforts to achieve and implement it. Our aim as always been a comprehensive, just settlement on the basis of withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, especially Jerusalem, so that the Palestinian people can exercise their right of self-determination on their land.

We have never abandoned our principles, which are known to the world. When President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat wrote on 16 August 1978 informing Jordan about President Carter's invitation to Egypt and Israel to meet at Camp David and saying that Egypt was determined to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement and not to reach a separate solution, and that the purpose of this meeting was to expose Israel before the whole world and thus isolate it from those deceived by it, His Majesty King Husayn replied in a frank and unambiguous letter asserting Jordan's firm stand on comprehensive withdrawal, sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem, the right of self-determination for the Palestinians, and the just and comprehensive solution of all aspects of the aggression on all the Arab fronts.

However, we were taken by surprise with the signing of the two Camp David agreements which are not joined to each other by a specific link [rabbatin muhaddad]. This means that the peace steps between Egypt and Israel are not linked to the peace steps in the rest of the occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem.

Jordan has warned and cautioned against this repeatedly. Although we and all the other Arabs pray to God that Egypt will not reach the point of no return, thus isolating itself from its Arabism, reality and location, we realize the significance of such a thing taking place, God forbid, and its gravity on the Arabs and their cause, as well as on Jordan--which is shouldering the responsibility of defending the nation's sanctities and dignity.

With instructions of a historic and inspired leader, His Majesty King Husayn has guided us in the necessity of seeking to rectify the situation in the Arab East so that they become commensurate with this grave development.

Jordan's recent political moves to explain anew to the Arab leaders the gravity and dimensions of this stage, and Jordan's expeditious response to the Iraqi call for a summit to be held in Baghdad at the beginning of November, were in harmony with our role which constantly calls for the unity and good of the Arabs, as well as for Arab meetings to formulate a comprehensive and responsible program for unified Arab action. We hope that this summit will provide an opportunity for our nation to transcend the atmosphere of outbiddings and petty irresponsible conflicts so as to safeguard our pan-Arab existence and civilization.

Brother members of the National Consultative Council, Jordan expressed its opinion regarding the Camp David agreement, to which it was not a party and to which it is not committed in any way. Jordan explained its viewpoint to all the Arab brethren and sought to clarify this viewpoint to all the international parties concerned, particularly the United States. This viewpoint did not conceal from the United States or from the world our concept of a just peace and the requisites for its achievement whether during meetings held between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Jimmy Carter, through letters exchanged between them, or through the queries which request clarification of the various aspects of the U.S. position regarding a comprehensive solution and which sought to rectify the principles on whose basis efforts are being made to bring about a just peace.

The Arabs are aware of our determination to shoulder our responsibilities toward our brethren in the occupied land. The entire world also knows that we have not abandoned our responsibilities toward peace in our region. However, the entire world stands as a witness that the dearth of potentials and the numerous pressures from any side or in any form have not and will not force Jordan to compromise its principles and its nation's dignity and heritage.

At this juncture we say that no power, no matter how great, will be able to drag us into positions or stands which conflict with or contradict our principles or do injustice to our sanctities. As we have always been, we will continue to block all the breaches through which the enemy is trying to wriggle so as to loot our nation's wealth and mold its future. Our people's determined and conscious rallying around His Majesty King Husayn's leadership and our faith in God and the justice of our stand will act as a pillar guiding us against all pressures and challenges.

QUERIES TO U.S. ADMINISTRATION REPORTED

JN161743Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mudar Badran met today with the members of the National Consultative Council [NCC] during a session held by the council under Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi.

The session was devoted to a review and discussion of the latest political developments and the current situation. The prime minister read the Jordanian Government statement which clarifies the Jordanian stand regarding political developments in the region in the current stage.

In an open session, the prime minister read the questions which Jordan had posed to the U.S. Government. These questions include a number of queries and requests for clarification regarding a number of issues which appeared in the Camp David agreements. The full text of these questions is as follows:

1. Does the U.S. Government intend to be a full partner in the discussions pertaining to the West Bank, Gaza and the Palestinian question in General? At what stage of the discussions and in what capacity will the United States participate in the talks?
2. What does paragraph 1 in the framework agreement, which refers to representatives of the Palestinian people, mean?
3. Why was a period of 5 years chosen for the transitional period in the West Bank and Gaza?
4. What is the geographic definition of the West Bank and Gaza in the understanding of the U.S. Government? Are Arab Jerusalem and its Arab suburbs which were annexed to Israel after June 1967 part of the West Bank? After the end of the 5-year transitional period, what will be the status of the West Bank and Gaza as far as sovereignty is concerned? What is the U.S. position regarding these questions? After the end of the 5-year transitional period, will Israeli forces be deployed in the West Bank and Gaza? If so, with what right and under what justification? What is the U.S. position on these questions?
5. During self-rule during the transitional period in the West Bank and Gaza, under which higher supervisory authority will the self-rule authority operate? Will it be under the supervision of the United Nations or another similar neutral authority? What sources will finance the self-rule authority? What are the limits of the powers of the self-rule authority and what will limit these powers?
6. The document [not further identified] refers to the authority of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza. Does this authority extend beyond a part of Jerusalem and its suburbs which was part of the West Bank when the occupation occurred? The same applies to the areas and population. What is the U.S. position regarding these questions?
7. After the end of the 5-year transitional period, what will be the status of occupied Arab Jerusalem? What is the U.S. position on this issue?
8. What is the position on the Israeli settlements in the occupied areas during and after the transitional period? What is the position on property and establishments there? What will their status be? What will be Israel's policy and responsibility toward the settlements during the transitional period? What is the position of the United States regarding the above two questions?

9. Will the Israelis residing in the existing settlements have the right to participate in the establishment of the self-rule authority and its future operation? What is the status of Israelis residing in the West Bank and Gaza during the transitional period and will there be any Israelis there? If the answer is in the affirmative, what will be their status after the transitional period?

10. After the 5-year transitional period, will the citizens of the West Bank and Gaza have the right to free self-determination to define their political future? What is the position of the United States on this question?

11. What is the solution in the framework agreement regarding the Palestinian refugees outside the occupied areas and how will they regain their rights? What does the United States see as a basis for solving this issue, and how does it define their rights?

12. How does the framework agreement envisage the future of the rest of the occupied Arab areas? What is the U.S. position on this question?

13. In its definition of security requirements in the region, does the U.S. Government accept the principle of reciprocity or does it consider these requirements from one side only?

14. Since UN Security Council Resolution 242 is the basis for any talks on a settlement in the West Bank and Gaza and for any other aspect of the problem, what will the United States do if during the talks opinions among the parties conflict regarding the interpretations in view of the U.S. Government's previous interpretations of Resolution 242 and its commitments toward these interpretations which had prompted the Jordanian Government to accept this resolution?

AD-DUSTUR GIVES EXPECTATIONS OF U.S. ANSWERS TO HUSAYN

JN170925Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Oct 78 p 10 JN

[Midhat Jum'ah article: "Jordan and the Camp David Agreements"]

[Excerpts] If we can overcome the emotional reactions and the feverish campaigns which have preoccupied us for a long time and look into the Camp David agreements in an objective manner, we will find the following:

1. Any solution for the Palestine issue must be a basic solution. The crux of the problem is that the Palestinians must be granted the right to self-determination. However, the Camp David agreement did not guarantee this right. This will mean that the dispute will continue and peace will not be achieved.

2. The Arab states which accepted the Security Council resolution did so on the basis that it was regarded as a whole. One of the principles of this resolution is that the aggressor should not be rewarded for his aggression and should not benefit from the occupation of territories of three Arab states, members of the United Nations.

3. The issue of Jerusalem for the Arabs and Moslems throughout the world is not an issue for bargaining. We will not relax our stand when it comes to Jerusalem because its holy places and national and religious heritage are above bargaining. It is not merchandise to be bought or sold in order to reach a distorted peace.

4. The worst thing about the Camp David agreement is that it has separated the Sinai from the main issue. In the section relating to Egypt, the agreement formulated basic principles which will inevitably lead to Israel's evacuation from the entire Sinai Peninsula and the establishment of a durable peace between Egypt and Israel. This will be followed by diplomatic representation and economic, cultural and touristic cooperation. The more important part of the agreement just provided for negotiations after or during the autonomy period without obliging Israel to evacuate all the occupied Arab areas or grant the Palestinians the right to self-determination. This means that Israel will try to cling to the land and also have peace. This will naturally not lead to a peaceful settlement of the dispute but will continue and aggravate it. Thus we would not reach our legitimate rights and Israel would not achieve peace.

5. The Camp David agreement has come as an inevitable result of personal and official efforts made by President Carter. President Carter has used his weight and that of the United States and he has worked with insistence and determination to minimize differences and bring views closer until the conferees reached a tangible result. Furthermore, President as-Sadat did not go to Camp David until he was reassured that the United States would not play the role of mediator between the two negotiating sides, as it had in the past, but would be a full partner in bearing the responsibility for the success or failure of the conference.

6. His Majesty King Husayn has properly addressed specific questions to the United States and has requested clear and frank answers to these questions. We are still awaiting these answers to discuss them with wisdom, deliberation and even-handedness. However, we and the Arabs must be sure of the following:

A. The United States must enter the negotiations on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a full partner and not as a courteous mediator.

B. The United States must express its complete belief in the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, including the evacuation of the aggressor Israeli forces from the occupied Arab areas in the Golan, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and especially Jerusalem.

C. Before the initiation of negotiations with any Arab side, the United States must commit Israel to agree to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions. Israel has no right to implement part of these resolutions and ignore other parts, leaving them for long negotiations which might not lead to positive results. Israel announces daily that autonomy will not lead to the evacuation of its forces from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and will not restore Arab Jerusalem to its rightful owners.

D. Israel must declare in advance its agreement to evacuate the settlements which it has planted in all the strategic parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip--settlements established with the aim of securing Israel's hegemony in the near and distant future. Israel should furthermore announce its acceptance of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and the establishment of their state, including the right of the Palestinians to choose the type of relations they want with neighboring Arab countries.

E. Allowing the settlements to remain where they are or establishing new settlements under direct Israeli control will make self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state meaningless.

V. 17 Oct 78

F 7

JORDAN

F. We must exercise self-restraint and wait for the American answers to the questions which His Majesty King Husayn has raised. If we find that these answers restore our rights, we will go ahead in our consultations with the concerned Arab states and our Palestinian brethren to implement a peaceful solution. However, if we find that these answers do not achieve the aspirations of the Arab nation, we will turn down the idea of negotiations, refusing to enter into pitfalls and talks which would not lead to the desired goals.

HUSAYN'S REPORTED INVITATION TO W. BANK LEADERS DENIED

TA161028Y Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 16 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Amman, Oct 16 (AFP)--A report that King Husayn invited Jordan River West Bank leaders here to work out a plan for autonomy was completely unfounded, a very reliable source said here today.

The report appeared in the Jerusalem daily AL-ANBAR yesterday.

But the source pointed out that the king, in his last speech to the nation on Tuesday (Oct. 10), had said that his government would remain at the disposal of the peoples of the occupied territories to widen their scope for consultation and provide any advice they might need.

Meanwhile, Jordanian Premier Mudar Badran, yesterday met the Executive Bureau for Occupied Territories Affairs to examine "ways of strengthening resistance" by the peoples of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The bureau is a Jordanian authority chaired by Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN LEAVES FOR MOSCOW

JN161600Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 16 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 16 October--Crown Prince Hasan and Princess Tharwat left Amman this morning for Moscow on an official 8-day visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Crown Prince Hasan will hold talks with senior Soviet officials to further consolidate relations between the two countries. This visit comes within the framework of the visits made by his highness to countries with a high level of development in various scientific, technical and development fields.

During his visit His Highness Crown Prince Hasan will become acquainted with the achievements of the Soviet Union in the fields of agriculture, industry, and the utilization of science and technology to apply natural resources to the benefit of society and humanity in general. The visit also aims at further strengthening commercial, economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

ARAB LEADERS CONFERRING IN SEARCH OF LEBANESE SOLUTION

Sarkis Sees Phalangist Leaders

NC161542Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] At 1600 today President Ilyas Sarkis met with Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil at the presidential palace in B'abda. They held detailed discussions on Lebanese political and security developments from the local and Arab angles. The discussions were held in the light of the deliberations that have been in progress since yesterday evening at the conference of foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in and supporting the deterrent forces. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Dany Sham'un.

Sarkis, Al-Faysal Comment

NC161736Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1655 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] The meeting at the presidential palace between President Ilyas Sarkis and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, Deputy Amin al-Jumayyil and Dany Sham'un ended a short while ago.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said the meeting was related to the [Bayt ad-Din] conference and the purpose was to learn about various matters. It was a useful meeting, he said. He added: God willing, it will form a basis for optimism so that, God willing, we will reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Prince al-Faysal also said: A final session will be held tomorrow, but I cannot give a specific time for it. It will be followed by resolutions issued by the conference.

Asked if the results will be positive, he said: God willing. He added: The meeting was held in the presence of His Excellency President Sarkis. In President Sarkis' judgment, the meeting was useful for the conference deliberations. I cannot divulge anything about it other than what his excellency may wish to reveal. I can say, however, that this meeting clarified many points and will be useful in achieving good results.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: We are trying. If we make an effort I believe we can succeed and end this plight. Asked if Prince al-Faysal submitted any specific proposals, he said: The matter is not easy. Every one of us must work for a way out of the crisis. On this occasion we thank our friend the prince and hope that he will continue his difficult but not impossible mission. With work we can achieve positive results, God willing.

Saudi Minister Meets Leaders

NC162131Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal held an expanded meeting in the house of the Saudi ambassador in Jardin. It was attended by Walid Junblatt and by former Prime Ministers Sa'ib Salam, Rashid as-Sulh and Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh. Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad joined the meeting later. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views and to clarify matters connected with the Lebanese crisis and the means to remedy it.

After the meeting, Chamber Speaker al-As'ad said: The conferees praised the sincere Saudi initiative regarding Lebanon. Such an initiative is not strange as long as the Arabs have a joint responsibility and as long as the issue concerns all Arabs. He added: We hope that the Arab foreign ministers conference will achieve positive and constructive results.

Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam said: The meeting was useful. Naturally, all of us appreciate Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's and Saudi Arabia's interest in Lebanon and its cause, which is an Arab cause. What we have heard confirms that there is a basis for optimism. I believe that all the parties concerned are vigilant enough to cooperate to bring about a successful conclusion to the conference.

Syria's Khaddam, Junblatt Meet

NC162058Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with Walid Junblatt in Al-Mukhtarah Palace this afternoon.

After the meeting, Minister Khaddam said: It was natural for me to visit my friend and brother Walid Junblatt. It was also natural for me to exchange views on current events in Lebanon with Junblatt, who is a prominent leader of the national forces in Lebanon. We reviewed the discussions that have taken place in Bayt ad-Din and exchanged views on all matters of mutual interest.

Regarding the reason for the delay in holding the meetings, Minister Khaddam said that discussions are taking place and the atmosphere at the meeting is good.

Walid Junblatt said that the atmosphere during the meeting was positive because we have excellent relations with our Syrian brothers. He added: We are in a decisive phase and we will not allow anyone to tamper with Lebanon's security. As to his position on the resolutions that might be issued by the conferees, Junblatt said: We will wait for the resolutions and after that we will adopt a position. He added: Naturally, the conference will achieve some positive results for reaching a solution of the Lebanese situation, but sincere Lebanese themselves must reach a final solution to their own problems. Junblatt said that withdrawal by the deterrent forces can lead to a devastating civil war. He emphasized the need for the Bayt ad-Din conference to achieve positive results.

Damascus Reports Junblatt Comments

JN171640Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpts] Beirut--Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Chief of Staff Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi yesterday visited Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, in Al-Mukhtarah Palace.

About the request made by some leaders of the Shamu'nite-Phalangist collusion gangs for the withdrawal of all the Arab forces from Lebanon, Junblatt said: What would the alternative be? Would it be Israel? If Israel is the alternative, we will fight and will liberate the rest of the Lebanese land from the gangs of the militias. The national movement and the national, progressive and pan-Arab forces will remain fatefully linked with Syria in the first place and with the Arab homeland in the second.

As to his position on the resolutions that might be issued by the current conference, Junblatt said: We will wait for the resolutions and after that we will adopt a position. Asked if he is optimistic following his talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Junblatt said: Naturally, the conference will achieve some positive results for reaching a solution on the Lebanese situation, but we must be aware of the fact that it will be impossible for Lebanon to reach a final solution to its problems so long as there is a Lebanese side--or rather a hireling gang--dealing directly with Israel. Asked his opinion about the stationing of the Lebanese Army in certain areas, Junblatt said: We oppose the stationing of the army in certain areas with its current structure. We demand the amendment of the army law. We want it a national, Arab and balanced army, performing its duties on the border with Israel and not in Al-Hadath or in other Lebanese areas. Commenting on the statements made by hireling Sham'un to the effect that he is drawing up a security plan in case the Arab forces are withdrawn from Lebanon, it would lead to a second civil war and any security plan is out of question. The foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the Arab Deterrent Forces are due to resume their meetings in Bayt ad-Din Palace near Beirut this morning.

Meetings, Consultations Continue

NC170824Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Oct 78 NC

[Text] There will be another day of efforts and contacts at the Bayt ad-Din palace today. The Arab delegations taking part in the conference of the foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in the Arab Deterrent Forces are continuing their peripheral meetings to bring about the success of the conference and produce satisfactory resolutions and recommendations. Among the most prominent meetings held this morning was one held by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, as soon as he arrived at the Bayt ad-Din Palace, with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi joined the meeting later.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal then met with a Palestinian delegation consisting of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and Hani al-Hasan, member of the PLO Executive Committee. Then they all met together with Prime Minister al-Huss. The peripheral meetings among the delegations are continuing.

Minister Says Working Paper Ready

LD162128Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 16 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Beirut--His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal stated that there is a working paper to resolve the Lebanese political and security crisis and for restoring calm and stability to Lebanon. His royal highness added that the Lebanese prime minister has finished preparing the paper, which can now be put to President Ilyas Sarkis and the Bayt ad-Din conference for discussion. His royal highness expressed the hope that the desired solution will be reached, adding: We have come here to reach defined points; our optimism derives from the desire of all to reach a comprehensive solution. As to the (?nature) of the solution, his royal highness said that political and security solutions are linked; this was the conclusion the conference came to yesterday. The situation now demands a comprehensive solution; that is the major plan now.

As to the Arab deterrent Forces in Lebanon, his royal highness explained that the task of the forces is known and the door is open to all Arab countries to contribute to the forces. This is approved by President Sarkis.

Phalangists Address Open Letter

NC141945Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 14 Oct 78 NC

[14 October open letter from the Lebanese Phalangist Party to the foreign ministers of the Arab states contributing to the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon--read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellencies: We do not know to what extent the picture of Lebanon will change in your eyes because we do not know how much of what is left of Lebanon you will have the chance to see. In any case, today's Lebanon is different from the Lebanon you know. It is the post-Cairo-agreement Lebanon, the Lebanon that exists after the 2-year war, after the Riyadh and Cairo summits, after the visit to Jerusalem, after the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, after the two Camp David agreements. It is the Lebanon that exists after the Syrian initiative taken in the name of Lebanese legitimacy and Arab fraternity.

If you have the opportunity to make a close examination you will observe that many of Lebanon's landmarks have disappeared. For example, you will miss the tourist landmarks. There are no longer big hotels, international festivals or beach and mountain entertainment spots. You will also miss the cultural landmarks. There are no longer universities, schools, theaters, fairs, libraries, examinations or diplomas. The same applies to medical and charitable institutions--hospitals, laboratories, first aid centers and old people's homes. You will also miss the features of development and prosperity. No longer are there any bright buildings, high towers, banks, factories or production; no accounting sessions or stock exchanges; no means of communications, communication networks or services.

You will undoubtedly miss the Lebanese press, Lebanese literature and the rostrums of freedom in Lebanon. You will miss the state. You will find no administration office or competent department.

Your Excellencies, don't ask why all this has happened or how all this could have happened in less than 4 years. It has happened. We are all now faced with a fait accompli. Lebanon has been subjected to a terrible tremor which destroyed its structure, marred its beauty and killed its message. It was not a natural tremor; it was the doing of those whom Lebanon agreed to call its brothers.

We have borne the burden of the Palestinian issue spiritually and bodily, here and throughout the world. We have borne the results of the Palestinians' revolution against what they called Arab reaction, Arab backwardness, Arab stinginess, Arab desertion and Arab harassment. We have borne the burden of all the Arab reactions to the Arab reality everywhere. The Arabs settled their accounts here. They also gave vent to their anger here and poured their wrath on us.

Your Excellencies, we will not go on recounting these memories because you are aware of them. They are still here for all to see [words indistinct]. What is important is that we now take the opportunity of your meeting in Lebanon to tell you a few things:

1. We welcome you in the remaining small part of the big Lebanon. We would have liked to welcome you everywhere in Lebanon, from its vanquished south to its prohibited north and from its [word indistinct] Al-Biqa to its devastated capital.

2. We thank those who took the initiative to invite you. We also thank you all for accepting. As far as we are concerned, it is a strong ray of hope.

3. We hope that you will be able to diagnose the disease, which is known, and to prescribe the remedy, which exists. This depends on determination to help in the recovery. You are, perhaps, determined.

4. We regard you among those closest to us in actual and geographic terms. There are many aspects of similarity and [word indistinct] sufferings between us. We hope that you will understand once and for all our position on three subjects: national unity, affiliation and legitimacy.

A. The Unity of Lebanon

The Phalangist Party has been one of the foundations of Lebanese national unity and it maintains the same stand as far as the continuity of this unity is concerned. We are its most staunch supporter and its most steadfast guardian. The fact that partition has not taken place so far is due primarily to the fact that we do not want it and that we continue to reject it and to work to prevent it. We believe in the unity of the Lebanese territory down to the last grain of soil. We believe in the unity of the Lebanese people down to the last citizen. We believe in the unity of all Lebanese institutions without exception. We wholeheartedly believe in all this and do not violate this belief or deviate from it. We have helped formulate all the formulas for national unity from 1943 up to this very day. Moreover, we have been the strongest (?advocates) of parliamentary understanding in recent months. Had it not been for us there would have been no charter and no hope for a charter.

B. Lebanon's Affiliations

Before most of the present leaderships, movements and axes of the Arab states came into being, Lebanon was a founding member of the Arab League with the consent of its sons. That was a basic choice which we adopted with our free will and no one forced us to take it. No one is more devoted to the Arab interest or enthusiastic about Arab solidarity than we are. We have never caused any Arab dispute or Arab division. We have endeavored to remain outside the axes and the camps. We have been the advocates of serenity and loyal people. If sacrifices offered in the name of Arab issues are to be counted, then Lebanon will show up as the country that offered most per capita and as the most committed country. Our commitment to our membership in the Arab group emanates from our Lebanese sincerity and from our adherence to our national roots and our refusal to be alienated from our environment.

However, injustice has been meted to us by our environment. Our brothers have treated us harshly. Our kinsmen have disavowed us when we needed them most and refused to reciprocate our respect for the need for trust, the preservation of dignities and the safeguarding of interests and life. All this made the entire world wonder about our adherence to those who had abandoned us and about our solidarity with those who took no notice of us.

All of a sudden some of our kinsmen--in order to justify their injustice to us and in order to make our brothers go against us--are accusing us of collaborating with Israel. Had we wanted such collaboration we would not have been forced into this suffering and no one would have failed to confront us with the facts. On the contrary, the entire world would have excused us because many are attributing our separate national steadfastness to political ignorance, while the biggest Arab state is following the path of solutions and is choosing solutions which suit it, far removed from any collective consideration. This state has found among the brothers some who show--either secretly or openly--understanding of its position and who bless its steps and encourage it to proceed with its plans. Therefore, let it be understood that if we had chosen to leave the Arab world, no one would have been able to force us to stay in it. However, as of this very hour and despite an Arab persecution from which we are suffering bitterly, we are still acting in accordance with our feelings because we are among the foundationstones of the Arab structure. However, this gives the Arabs objective responsibilities toward us which they must shoulder. If they do not shoulder these responsibilities accusations will revert to them and the blame will fall on them.

C. The Legitimacy of Lebanon

The Lebanese Phalangist Party has been known throughout the eras of independence as the firm pillar of legitimacy and the faithful supporter of the state. It has always been in the vanguard of those standing fast on the side of legitimacy. Even when legitimacy had shrunk into a small village during 1975 and 1976 and when the election of His Excellency Ilyas Sarkis as the new president of the republic on 8 May 1976 was an impossible task, the Phalangists continued to be in the forefront of those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of legitimacy. Had it not been for our party and its allies and those towing the national line, legitimacy would have gone. No legitimacy would have emerged after that and legitimacy would not have continued up to today. This is an obvious fact that defies those who cast doubt. In our view, legitimacy is a constitutional institution that is the guardian of the homeland and the citizens. It is not rocket launchers that destroy, artillery that shells and fire that burns. It is not fire poured indiscriminately on cities and villages, hospitals and schools, convents and churches, factories and shops, banks and residential areas, gardens and forests, turning them into corpses and rubble and rendering the survivors homeless in the streets and the forests.

Yes, we support legitimacy. Indeed, we are for it. But we refuse to equate the legitimacy of the constitutional institution with those who assume the character of legitimacy, don the cloak of legitimacy and force it to adopt their perpetrations.

Your Excellencies, after all this, faced with Lebanon's bloody reality, will not each of you ask yourselves if you would allow one one-thousandth of what has happened to Lebanon to happen to your country? Will not each of you ask yourselves what your attitude would be toward those--whomever they may--who might cause to happen in your country what has happened to Lebanon, God forbid?

Your Excellencies, is not our tragedy great, very great? Has our tragedy not been going on too long? Has not Lebanon been wronged and very much so? Are you also not responsible for its condition together with the others responsible? If you wanted to rescue it, could you not do so more than anyone else and before anyone else?

V. 17 Oct 78

G 7

LEBANON

We still have enough hope in brotherhood to appeal to you and to your states to act before it is too late and before the reins slip from your hands and ours.

Your Excellencies, Lebanon's image abroad has changed and many of its features have been obliterated. But the Lebanese continue to cling to survival, standing on their two bleeding feet. Do not compel the Lebanese man to seek his salvation and that of his homeland in all (?parts) of the world, east and west, because if it becomes difficult for him to be victorious, it will not be impossible for him to commit suicide.

We very much hope that the Arabs will not wait until Lebanon is completely lost to realize what they are risking and then start looking in vain for another Lebanon which will be a world rostrum for them, a supporter of their causes, and a haven for every oppressed Arab.

Your Excellencies Messrs Ministers--and through you I address their majesties, their highnesses and their excellencies, among whom we have more than one friend--I earnestly ask you to understand us and leave us outside the axes, the conflicts and (?settlements) and keep us out of the schemes and plots. Perhaps we can then rebuild Lebanon for us and for you. Long Live Lebanon!

[Signed] Pierre al-Jumayyil, leader of the Lebanese Phalangist Party.

Beirut Radio Reports Further

NC161340Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Excerpts] Attention is still focused on the conference of the foreign ministers of the states participating in and supporting the Arab Deterrent Forces held in Bayt ad-Din.

Yesterday's and today's deliberations have all centered on the theme that a solution must basically stem from Lebanese understanding and work within an Arab framework for the restoration of tranquillity, security and stability to the country, thus opening the road for national detente.

We have just learned that President Sarkis went to B'abda Palace at 1120 to resume his consultations. Other deliberations are continuing among various Arab delegations. The president will return to Bayt ad-Din Palace to chair the second session.

The Arab delegations held a series of peripheral meetings this morning to agree on the general lines for a working paper which will constitute the basis of discussions and will lead to appropriate solutions to the Lebanese crisis. The most prominent of these meetings were the meeting between Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the meeting between Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, and Prime Minister al-Huss' meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in the presence of Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir. Al-Huss also met with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah. At 1000 President Sarkis received Prime Minister al-Huss and Foreign Minister Butrus. Their 45-minute meeting dealt with the results of the morning consultations. At 1045 President Sarkis received Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi. At 1115 the Saudi foreign minister joined the meeting. At 1230 Prime Minister al-Huss met with the Saudi ambassador.

After his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal emphasized that if there is any hope of resolving the Lebanese question, it lies in an Arab solution because internationalization complicates and fragments the issue. He said efforts are aimed at promoting a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese problem. He said that a working paper prepared by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss will be submitted to President Sarkis and the conference.

Answering a question regarding withdrawal of Sudanese forces, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said Sudanese forces are still here and Sudan is participating in this conference. He was asked: Has President Numayri decided to withdraw his forces on 16 October?

He answered: That was mentioned, but I did not hear it before. However, the fact that Sudan is here with us and the fact that Sudanese forces are still here indicates that they will stay. Asked about participation of Jordanian forces in the Arab Deterrent Forces, he said: Naturally participation is open to all Arab states. Such a decision depends on the wishes of the participating Arab states, subject to President Sarkis' agreement. I do not believe there is any objection to Jordan joining in. I have not noticed any objection by anyone to Jordanian forces joining the deterrent forces.

Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in turn emphasized that the atmosphere at the conference calls for optimism and that the participating states are unanimous in rejecting and condemning dealings with the Israeli enemy.

The following dialog ensued between Minister Khaddam and reporters:

Question: How is the atmosphere at the conference?

Khaddam: It has been good.

Question: When will the conference end?

Khaddam: Today or tomorrow.

Question: Does the main problem at the conference appear to be the dealing with Israel, and how will this problem be tackled?

Khaddam: There is a unanimous condemnation of all signs and forms of dealing with the Israeli enemy.

Question: Will a political cabinet be formed that will say no to those dealing with Israel?

Khaddam: The formation of a cabinet is a Lebanese affair.

Question: If there is an Arab condemnation of those dealing with Israel, how could there be cooperation with them at the Lebanese level?

Khaddam: Surely, nobody would agree to extend a hand to those who cooperate with the Israeli enemy.

Question: Is there a Syrian working paper at the conference?

Khaddam: No. Prime Minister al-Huss is himself preparing a working paper.

Question: Has the conference broached the question of the position of the army in the south?

Khaddam: All matters have been discussed in a responsible and constructive spirit.

Question: Can we consider this conference as a preparatory conference leading to a summit conference of the states participating in the deterrent forces?

Khaddam: This has not been raised.

Question: Will the Lebanese question be discussed at the Arab summit conference in Baghdad?

Khaddam: No.

Question: Is there an inclination to reinforce the Arab Deterrent Forces and use Jordanian forces?

Khaddam: That has not been discussed yet.

Regarding the question of the Sudanese contingent, minister Khaddam was asked: Has the conference requested the contingent to stay?

He answered: Ask the Sudanese delegation. This matter has not been discussed.

He was asked: Does Syria agree in principle to the participation of the Lebanese Army in the Arab Deterrent Forces.

He answered: Syria supports all that the sides in Lebanon agree to. There are numerous sides in Lebanon and Syria is committed to respect the views of those sides.

Question: What do you think of Al-Huss' statement that the deterrent forces must complete their mission in Lebanon even though we still have not been able to rebuild the army?

Khaddam: Prime Minister al-Huss has expressed the opinion of the vast majority of the Lebanese people.

Question: Is a Lebanese group still rejecting an Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis?

Khaddam: The question of a solution is not subject to the opinion of one party or another. However, those who dream about partitioning Lebanon and internationalizing the Lebanese problem are quite detached from the truth. At any rate, in 1976 when they pleaded for help and the faces changed every half hour, they looked for an Arab solution.

Question: In one of your statements you said that the Camp David results will reflect negatively on Lebanon. Do you believe that the dealings of some factions with Israel are related to As-Sadat's dealings [with Israel]?

Khaddam: The scheme is a general one for the area, and its aim is to liquidate the Palestine question and the unity of Lebanon as an integral state, and also to enable Zionism to control the area. Whether As-Sadat plays his role in this scheme and whether others play other parts, their work is part of one plan.

Question: What are your expectations regarding the next phase vis-a-vis the area as a whole?

Khaddam: The Arab nation has always been stronger than its enemies and it has managed to defeat its enemies and all the plots against our Arab nation and our national aspirations. Our nation will definitely defeat all these schemes and all the pockets carrying them out. With its enormous resources and with its friends in the world the Arab nation is capable of facing every difficult circumstance.

V. 17 Oct 78

G 10

LEBANON

VOL: Sham'un Pessimistic on Outcome

NC161822Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Commenting on the Arab foreign ministers conference in Bayt ad-Din, in light of the information received on the progress of the talks, former President Camille Sham'un said: Our stand of rejecting the Arab Deterrent Forces and other alien forces is well known. We are waiting to see what the Arab foreign ministers conference will produce. However, I doubt that the conferees will produce anything constructive that will end the Lebanese crisis.

Former President Sham'un was told that the Bayt ad-Din conference sources said that the conference will consolidate the truce, that the political issue cannot be solved overnight and that a political committee will be formed to discuss the matter. He commented on that by saying: As far as the political issue is concerned, I have a plan which can achieve results but I am not prepared to discuss it before the alien armed forces have withdrawn from Lebanon. We will then produce a plan that will satisfy everybody.

Asked his opinion of the statement made by sources close to the Saudi ambassador that the ambassador had obtained promises from all sides to help the Bayt ad-Din conference succeed, former President Sham'un said: No one has contacted me. However, Saudi Ambassador ash-Sha'ir discussed the situation in Lebanon with my son Dany. In my capacity as leader of the National Liberal Party, I remain the person who decides inside and outside the party.

Regarding ending the blockade in the eastern area, Sham'un said: We will see what is possible. So far, I have not received any communications from anyone about that.

Asked if it is true that President Ilyas Sarkis asked King Husayn to send Jordanian forces to Lebanon, former President Sham'un said: The president of the republic made such a request, but if the Jordanian monarch wishes to send a force to Lebanon, he will not be able to send more than [word indistinct]. He added: Despite my love for and confidence in King Husayn, our principled stand on this matter is that we reject alien forces coming here or remaining on Lebanese territory. We want the forces presently in Lebanon to leave.

SHAM'UN CRITICIZES FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT

NC170741Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 17 Oct 78 NC

[Excerpts] Following the statement made by French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud, in which he accused the Lebanese rightist militias of dealing with Israel, the Israeli defense minister categorically denied what he called the accusations of the French foreign minister.

Reacting to the French foreign minister's statement, former President Camille Sham'un last night accused the French foreign minister of cowardliness and (?telling lies).

Sham'un said: Our militia has not even once attacked the Syrians. On the contrary, it was forced to answer the barbaric shelling directed at civilians and to react to their political and military activities to dominate Lebanon.

Sham'un accused Minister de Guiringaud of changing roles, because he simply wanted to justify before the French public his lack of action regarding the tragedy in Lebanon. Concluding his statement, Sham'un described De Guiringaud as a malicious person with a weak character.

V. 17 Oct 78

G 11

LEBANON

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES REELECTS SPEAKER AL-AS'AD

NC171016Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Oct 78 NC

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies a few minutes ago reelected Kamil al-As'ad as speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. He was reelected by the unanimous vote of 62 deputies. The Chamber of Deputies began its meeting at 1130 today under the chairmanship of the oldest member, former Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran. This is the first meeting in the current regular session of the Chamber of Deputies. The meeting is devoted to the election of the speaker and members of the Chamber Bureau. The meeting was attended by 42 deputies.

INTERIOR MINISTER TO VISIT SUDAN ON OFFICIAL MISSION

NC170914Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman will leave this evening for Khartoum via Jidda on an official mission. Minister Salman is expected to meet in Khartoum tomorrow with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

VOL: SNIPING INTENSIFIES IN BEIRUT AREA

NC170901Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 17 Oct 78 NC

[Text] On the security level, it appears that with the start of the countdown for the final session of the Bayt ad-Din conference, military escalation has begun, despite the fact that it has not gone beyond the limit of intensive sniping until now, particularly in the Al-Ashrafiyah area. The combat lines in Al-Ashrafiyah have seen intensive sniping this morning, particularly on the Adib Izhaq Street.

Sniping fire is directed from the Rizq and Ta'aya buildings, where Syrian troops are stationed. Syrians continue to open automatic fire at the eastern approaches of the capital and the three bridges, making movement on them extremely risky.

VOL: ITALIAN EMBASSY ADVISES ITALIANS TO LEAVE

NC162100Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 16 Oct 78 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received information to the effect that the Italian ambassador in Beirut has contacted Italian citizens and advised them to leave Lebanon if they have no business or engagements forcing them to stay. The Italian ambassador has not made an official statement on this decision and preferred to give it a [word indistinct] character. We have also learned that the Italian ambassador began contacting Italian citizens last Wednesday, after the cease-fire decision.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON POSSIBLE ISRAELI-NATO OPERATION

JN161628Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 October--The Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR cites well-informed quarters as saying that the Zionist enemy might launch a wide-scale military operation inside Lebanese territory between 20 October and 19 November. The paper reports that the aim of the operation will supposedly be to protect Western interests and the lives of foreigners in Lebanon. The paper adds that diplomatic sources link this operation to the maneuvers which the U.S. 6th Fleet will carry out in the same period to act as a military cover for the Zionist operation. The paper reports that the maneuvers will be carried out in the east and center of the Mediterranean Sea. Naval forces of some West European members of NATO will participate in the maneuvers.

V. 17 Oct 78

S Y R I A

H 1

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD POSTPONES VISIT TO HUNGARY

JN161306Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 16 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Budapest, 16 October--Quoting well-informed sources, the INA Budapest correspondent has learned that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has postponed his visit to Hungary to an unspecified date. The Syrian president was expected to visit Hungary later this month. The sources did not elaborate on the subject.

SOVIET PEACE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN161733Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 October--A delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace headed by Comrade Alekseyevich Smolentsev, Chairman of USSR Supreme Court [title as received], arrived in Damascus at noon today at the invitation of the National Council of the Peace Supporters Movement in Syria.

The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Comrades 'Atif al-Judah and Murad Quwatli, members of the Central Bureau of the Peace Supporters Movement in Syria as well as by representatives of the Soviet Embassy in Damascus.

In a statement on arrival, Comrade Smolentsev told the SANA correspondent that this visit comes within the framework of strengthening bilateral relations and exchanging viewpoints to further consolidate the joint struggle against racism, imperialism and Zionism. He said: "The visit of the Syrian National Council of Peace Supporters to the Soviet Union last April deeply impressed us. Your just cause has many friends in the Soviet Union."

Comrade Smolentsev added that during his visit to Syria he will hold talks, exchange viewpoints on the situation in the Middle East and review the joint stand of the supporters of peace in the two countries. Concluding his statement Comrade Smolentsev reiterated the stand of the Soviet Union that is in solidarity with the just struggle of the Arab people for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to establish their independent state in their homeland.

LIBYA SENDING SOPHISTICATED SOVIET-MADE WEAPONS

NC170905Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 17 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 17 October--Quoting diplomatic sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today reports that Soviet-made sophisticated weapons have been sent from Libya to Syria during the past 2 weeks. This action comes in compliance with the secret resolutions passed by the "The steadfastness and confrontation" conference which was convened in Damascus recently.

The paper says that other Soviet sophisticated weapons have begun to arrive in Syria on the eve of the recent return from Moscow of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. These weapons include MIG-25 planes and highly sophisticated missiles.

Also quoting diplomatic sources, the paper adds that Syria has conveyed to Iraq its official approval of the stationing of five Iraqi divisions in Syria--three on the front and two in the hinterland.

These sources have pointed out to the paper that opinion has settled on the decision to open the border between the two countries as part of an integral plan which will be thought out at the Arab summit conference scheduled for convocation in Baghdad on 2 November.

V. 17 Oct 78

H 2

SYRIA

STEADFASTNESS FRONT FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET IN DAMASCUS

JN150738Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Oct 78 p 11 JN

[Text] Damascus--AR-RA'Y has learned that a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will be held in Damascus at the end of October prior to the Arab foreign ministers conference in Baghdad which will pave the way for the Arab summit conference, which will begin on 2 November.

Observers state that the Algerian, Libyan and PDRY foreign ministers will arrive in Damascus on route to Baghdad where they will hold intensive meetings before proceeding to the Iraqi capital to discuss the latest developments in the situation in the region.

DAMASCUS RADIO DEMANDS EXPELLING EGYPT FROM ARAB LEAGUE

JN141645Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Oct 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It has become definite that the leaders of the Arab League member states will hold a summit conference in Baghdad to review the situation in light of the Camp David agreements and the fall of As-Sadat's regime into the abyss of negotiations to sign a unilateral peace settlement with Israel under the auspices and guidance of the United States.

The Arab states have agreed unanimously to attend the forthcoming summit, contrary to the expectations of those sides which are aiming to impose capitulation on the Arabs. Those sides have based their calculations on differences in the Arab ranks and their classification of Arab states into moderate, extremist, allied or hostile states. However, the acceptance by all Arab countries of the invitation to attend the forthcoming Arab summit, which will be devoted to coping with the effects of the Camp David agreements--which are hostile to peace interests and Arab national interests as well--has proved that Arab states are capable of facing danger and accordingly of turning over the page of their differences. Moreover, agreement on united action will denounce the conspiracy and consequently confront it by stressing the principled joint Arab stand and sticking to the resolutions of the Rabat summit and the Arab League charter.

Syria's stand has shown the ideal by rising above peripheral differences to reach the level of danger threatening the Arab cause. Syria's stand also comes to the level of the national duty to reunite Arab ranks and mobilize Arab potentialities for the battle of confrontation with the enemy. Syria is convinced that intrinsic Arab potential--if employed to serve the battle and joint Arab strategy--is capable of changing the balance of power in the Middle East and blocking the gap in Arab ranks caused by the collusion of As-Sadat's regime with the enemy. Syria will not spare any effort in the future to revive Arab solidarity and to reunite Arab efforts in the battle aimed at foiling the conspiracy to impose capitulation on the Arabs.

Just as Arabs are happy at signs of joint Arab action, enemies of the Arabs are worried by them. Enemies of the Arabs fear the collapse of their calculations which are based on division in Arab ranks and Arab differences. They hoped that those would increase and accordingly submerge the main conflict between the Arabs and their enemies. Enemies of the Arabs fear that Arab isolation of As-Sadat's regime will turn into a unanimous Arab decision to denounce his regime, its surrender to the enemy and its intention of signing a capitulationist, unilateral settlement with the enemy.

Arab reactions to As-Sadat's surrender at Camp David have shown that As-Sadat's regime stands by itself, isolated from the rest of the Arab world. Moreover, this regime has actually been separated from Arab ranks and has joined the enemy's side. Therefore, the decision adopted by the Arab League Council in April 1950 makes it necessary to expel As-Sadat's regime from the Arab League and also any other regime that agrees to join the negotiations with Israel and sign a settlement treaty with the enemy. A decision to expel such an Arab state is aimed at the regime which has ignored the will of the nation.

Of course, this decision is not aimed at the fraternal people in Egypt. Egypt is still the great Arab sister and the significance of its role in Arab ranks is recognized by all Arabs. Egypt's place in the Arab front against the conspiracy to impose capitulation will be preserved for it. As-Sadat's regime will not be able to detach Egypt from the Arab homeland or to prevent Egypt from carrying out its patriotic commitments in the future, for Arab Egypt will continue to exist while As-Sadat's regime will vanish. All measures of oppression, suppression, and lying adopted by As-Sadat's regime will fail to hide the will of the Arab people of Egypt. Thus the National Unionist Grouping Party in Egypt has challenged As-Sadat to go to the people on his recent capitulationist and humiliating steps.

Moreover, members of the 23 July Revolution Command Council have condemned As-Sadat's policies, deviation, violation of Egypt's commitments and national interests and abandonment of Egypt's sovereignty.

As-Sadat's regime has drifted away from the people of Egypt and from Arab ranks. It has joined its natural place on the side of the enemy hostile to the Arabs and peoples. This regime is like any hireling regime hostile to its own people. The end of this regime will not be any better than the end of other similar regimes, like that of Nuri as-Sa'id in Iraq, Lon Nol in Cambodia and Nguyen Cao Ky in Vietnam.

Those who disdain Arab nationalism and Arab ties tend to forget the lessons of Middle East history. These lessons show that the Arab nationalist movement, which is liberal, nationalist, pan-Arab and progressive, is a popular revolutionary movement with great potentialities. This movement has frequently changed the balance of power in the Middle East and consequently influenced the balance of power in the whole world. It has foiled colonialist treaties, liberated Arab countries and closed foreign military bases.

The first stages of the Arab answer to the conspiracy of Camp David show that the Arab nationalist movement is still alive, powerful, revolutionary and capable of determining the future of this area.

ALGERIA

PARIS CITES REPORTS ON BOUMEDIENE'S WHEREABOUTS, HEALTH

LD151021Y Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 15 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpts] Houari Boumediene has disappeared from the political scene.

The SUNDAY EXPRESS, a sensationalist British weekly, does not hesitate to suggest today that the Algerian president has been the victim of a military coup d'etat, that he is injured and that he is being held prisoner in the desert.

This morning the Algerian daily EL MOUDJAHID speaks ironically about the fantasies of foreign journalists and their malevolence. Meanwhile, the Kuwait paper AL-QABAS points out that President Boumediene is reported to be on a tour in the USSR.

Of course, all the hypotheses are possible, but one of them which has persisted now for several weeks is, may I point out to you, that President Boumediene is unwell.

ALGIERS REPORTS FURTHER ON BOUMEDIENE'S USSR VISIT

LD161230Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpt] President Houari Boumediene, president of the Republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution, continues his stay in the Soviet Union, in the framework of the working visit he is paying to this friendly country which he last visited last January. This was in the wake of a long tour of a number of Arab capitals where he had striven to halt the collapse in the Arab ranks due to As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem.

The current visit of brother President Houari Boumediene to the Soviet Union puts an end to the tendentious campaign and groundless rumors run by Western and reactionary circles in an attempt to harm the Algerian revolution.

LIBYA

BRIGADIER JABIR RECEIVES PLO LEADER 'ARAFAT

LD170954Y Tripoli JANA in English 0801 GMT 17 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 17 October JANA--Brigadier AbuBakr Yunis Jabir received Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting at Brigadier Abu Bakr's office was attended by Abu Ayad.

'Arafat Departs

LD161954Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 16 October--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Tripoli this evening after a 2-day visit to the Jamahiriyah. He was seen off at the airport by Miftah Ku-aybah, the youth secretary.

MAURITANIA

GOVERNMENT DENIES RUMORS OF SAHARAN SETTLEMENT

LD132352Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The Mauritanian news agency today released a denial which says that the Mauritanian Government has--to this day--neither proposed a specific solution to the issue of the Western Sahara, nor approved any specific project in that connection. This is contrary to reports carried by an international news agency which claims to have obtained information from a reliable source in the capital. Similar reports have been carried by various foreign radios.

Mauritania has launched a peace initiative in order to obtain what it feels must be a comprehensive peace. It continues to explore all possibilities and in particular is seeking out those states, who are members of the OAU, for the purpose of defining a course of action that will lead to a final solution of the problem and one that will be acceptable to all nations in the area. And as we have demonstrated on (?several) occasions by way of four [words indistinct] Mauritania can never claim to be capable of singelhendedly finding a magic solution without involving the other parties concerned. But, on the contrary, Mauritania is convinced that a solution can be found if the other parties agreed to overcome their hatreds and decide to tackle the basic causes of the current situation in the Arab Maghreb.

Mauritania hopes that the committee of African sages, which is to be formed in the future, will create an atmosphere that is suitable and conducive to consultation among all concerned parties.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER MINISTER'S SENEGAL VISIT

LD150534Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpts] Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck, member of the Military Committee for National Recovery and minister of interior, returned to Nouakchott this morning after a 24-hour working visit to Senegal at the invitation of his Senegalese colleague Jean Collin, the interior minister.

During their stay in the town of [name indistinct] the Mauritanian and Senegalese delegations discussed issues concerning the borders, the exploitation of grazing lands, agriculture as well as the (?movement) of persons and money. The talks were held in a fraternal and frank atmosphere.

After the talks, the following joint communique was issued:

At the inviation of the Minister of State for Interior Jean Collin, Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck, member of the Military Committee for National Recovery and minister of interior of Mauritania paid a visit to [name indistinct] on 12 and 13 October. The two ministers headed an important delegation representing their two countries, basically consisting of officials responsible for regional administration.

The two delegations were able to find satisfactory solutions to all the problems connected with the borders in accordance with the relations of solidarity between the two countries. The two delegations expressed their desire [words indistinct].

The Mauritanian delegation expressed its gratitude to the administrative authorities and political leaders and the people of (?Senegal) for the warm welcome accorded it during its stay.

MOROCCO

MINISTRY DENIES SECRET NEGOTIATIONS ON SAHARA

LD132156Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Oct 78 LD

[Communique from the Ministry of State for Information]

[Text] Foreign newspapers have been of late publishing reports--echoed by news agencies and local papers--on plans sponsored by foreign circles, or endorsed by some Arab states, and accepted--so these news agencies allege--by Morocco, regarding the question of tension prevailing in northwestern Africa. In addition to that, news bulletins have reported secret negotiations in Paris between semi-official representatives of all the parties to the conflict in the region. In that respect, the ministry of state for information announces that such reports are groundless.

This, despite the fact that, as a sovereign state, Morocco has freedom of action and of choosing to make the kind of contacts it would deem fit to put an end to tension in the region.

The Ministry of State for Information outlines that in this respect the policy of his majesty the king has always been clear, and based on his involving the Moroccan people and public opinion in any step or action he takes, especially in a question as important and critical as the Sahara question, which is at the center of the popular will, and regarding which popular efforts have rallied around his majesty.

His majesty would never hide from his people initiatives of this kind of importance. All the reports about this question do not reflect the truth; therefore, such reports should be met with full reservation and never given consideration.

BOUCETTA RECEIVES UK FOREIGN MINISTER JUDD

LD141430Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 78 LD

[Text] This morning M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, received in his ministry Mr Frank Judd, British minister of state at the Foreign Office. The meeting was attended on the Moroccan side by the head of the Europe and American section and on the British side by the British Ambassador in Rabat and the delegation accompanying Mr Frank Judd.

Mr Judd made a statement to the radio after the meeting in which he said in particular that his visit to our country falls within the context of consolidating the relations of friendship between the two countries and that his talks with Boucetta dealt with a number of international issues of common interest and were frank.

Mr Judd left Morocco this morning for his country. He was seen off at the Nuwasir International Airport by ('Umar Bilkurah), head of the European section in the ministry in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, a representative of the Casablanca governor and the British ambassador in Rabat. In a statement to the press Mr Judd spoke about parliamentary life in Morocco and praised relations between the two countries in various fields.

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NORTH AFRICA

SUDAN

PARLIAMENTARY BODIES STUDY CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS

JN151156Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 15 October--First Vice President Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim received a report from the Foreign Relations, Defense and Security Committees of the Republic Assembly on the results of the Camp David agreements and their effects on the Arab cause and developments in the area.

The two committees had held a series of meetings to discuss the official Camp David documents and Arab and international documents and resolutions on the Palestinian cause. They also reviewed Arab world reaction to these agreements.

President Numayri had asked the two committees and the Political Bureau of the Sudanese Socialist Union to study the Camp David agreements to determine Sudan's positions on these agreements.

TUNISIA

FATAH LEADERS LEAVE TUNIS AFTER CONSULTATIONS

LD150108Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The two Palestinian fighters Abu Mazin and Abu Sa'id, members of the Central Committee of Fatah, have completed their consultations with Tunisian leaders, especially with Prime Minister Hedi Nouira, about the Palestine question in particular and the Middle East question in general. They left Tunis this evening and were seen off by Mohamed Sayahn, director of the party and minister-delegate attached to the prime minister, and Makam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis.

WESTERN SAHARA

153 CIVILIANS REPORTEDLY RELEASED BY POLISARIO

LD162210Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Oct 78 LD

[Text] According to recent rumors, a group of Mauritanian prisoners, formerly held by the POLISARIO Front, were released. As a matter of fact, the report concerns the 153 Mauritanian civilians, who were detained by the POLISARIO Front and were released last Saturday in good condition. This action is no doubt within the framework of the atmosphere of detente which the region has been witnessing since the beginning of the movement of 10 July.

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS MAKE PROGRESS; AGREEMENT IMMINENT

TA170743Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Oct 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Washington is once again our leading topic today, under the sign of progress at the peace talks. Yesterday, many unofficial talks took place between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations.

The Drafting Committee, headed by Dr Me'ir Rosenne from Israel, 'Abdallah al-'Iryan from Egypt and Alfred Atherton from the United States, sat down to formulate the peace agreement, with Ministers Dayan and Weizman joining them occasionally. On one evening, Dayan and Weizman met with the Egyptian Ministers Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Butrus Ghali. Here is a report from Washington by Shalom Qital and Dan Shilon. [begin recording]

[Qital] Large parts of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty are already being finalized and formulated. Israeli sources told me that great progress has been made. The Egyptians are demonstrating good will and are not dwelling on marginal issues.

The agreement will have three appendixes: political, economic and military. Formulation of these appendixes, in addition to putting the final touches on the agreement, is being handled by the Drafting Committee which receives precise directives from Jerusalem and Cairo. Each draft agreed upon here, each comma and word are immediately passed on to Jerusalem and Cairo where they are scrupulously examined; directives are then duly sent here, which then open a new round of talks between the delegations on issues that had seemed resolved. This prolongs the process slightly, but it does not change the general evaluation that the conclusion of the negotiations will come soon.

The signing of the peace treaty is a matter of only a few days. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman estimates that the agreement could be completed as early as tomorrow. Other sources on the Israeli delegation are a bit more cautious. They talk about the end of this week, perhaps the beginning of next week. The Americans are predicting in even more general terms: We have unlimited time, we shall not predict, the U.S. spokesman, George Sherman, said yesterday. The Egyptians are not stating the estimated length of time, but are not concealing the fact that the road to the agreement is fairly short.

However long it takes, no one doubts that the talks here will end successfully. The atmosphere is excellent. And this evaluation is not a verbal disguise for unknown activities behind the scenes. This time the atmosphere has in fact been good all along. [end recording]

RABIN CALLS POST-TREATY YEARS 'TESTING PERIOD'

TA131405Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Oct 78 TA

[Text] MK Yizhaq Rabin says that whoever thinks that Israel will arrive at rest and relaxation after the Washington conference is making a mistake. On the contrary: The following 5 years, which will be a transition period in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza, will be a testing period for the agreement with Egypt, when all the Arabs who are opposed to it will do all they can to undermine it. Therefore, Yizhaq Rabin says, relations with Cairo must be fostered on the basis of mutual interests and avoiding any feeling of Israeli superiority. He was speaking at the Haifa Workers' Council.

SHARON CALLS FOR FLESHING OUT OF SETTLEMENTS

TA121244Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Oct 78 p 8 TA

[By Bina Barzel]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon is demanding that the settlements in Judaea and Samaria be fleshed out as, in his opinion, is called for in the peace agreement.

At the cabinet meeting on Sunday, Sharon repeated statements he had made on the occasion of the Knesset vote to the effect that sacrificing the Rafah approaches would only be worthwhile if something were done in Judaea and Samaria. He called the inactivity in this area disastrous and warned that Israel would return to the 1967 borders unless something is done other than merely making decisions.

Sharon said that he could not continue to be responsible unless something were done to secure the existence of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. He repeated that he did not object to the Camp David accords, but what had been reported in their wake was not consistent with what was being done, or rather, what was not being done.

Sharon's angry words, elicited a certain amount of mockery from Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who said that as far as he could recall, only one cabinet minister had abstained during the voting, (Minister Hammer.) Had there been any other ministers who abstained, he asked.

Meanwhile, there is unrest in the MAFDAL due to the fact that Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg is not part of the Israeli delegation sent to Washington.

The MAFDAL ministers remember that Mr Begin had promised them on the day of the Knesset vote that Burg would go to Washington with the delegation. MAFDAL members contend that even though the whole Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs has been appointed delegation to the negotiations, the fact that only Dayan and Weizman are maintaining the contacts creates a situation in which the interests in preserving the integrity of the land may be jeopardized.

WEST BANK NOTABLES REJECT AUTONOMY PLAN

TA161657Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Mayors from Judaea and Samaria and heads of trade unions and public institutions met today at the Bethlehem College and announced that they reject the autonomy plan, that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and that they demand the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The meeting was attended by mayors supporting the PLO, as well as by mayors who did not participate in earlier meetings, such as the mayor of Bethlehem, Elyas Frayj. The mayor of Tulkarm, Hilmi Hanin, on the other hand, did not come to the meeting in Bethlehem. This week he also expressed support for the speech that had been delivered by King Husayn.

Clerics from East Jerusalem, who are among the supporters of Jordan, were also absent. Those clergymen are now organizing a big rally of their own.

RALLIES ORGANIZED IN WEST BANK FOR, AGAINST AUTONOMY

TA131931Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Opponents of autonomy in Judaea and Samaria met for another large public rally, this time in Bethlehem, in the town's college. It was attended by mayors, including those who did not attend the previous rallies, as well as heads of trade unions and other public organizations. Jordan's supporters have begun to organize a rival rally in East Jerusalem. They intend to demonstrate Jordan's strength in Judaea and Samaria.

HA'AREZ ON FEASIBILITY OF AUTONOMY IN WEST BANK

TA151617Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 Oct 78 p 11 TA

[Yehuda Litani commentary: "Autonomy in the Garb of Pressure"]

[Excerpts] If an agreement is reached quickly in Washington on a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt that includes a clause on the matter of autonomy--will Israel be able to establish autonomy in the near future? From the technical aspect--according to the experts who are familiar with this issue--the autonomy can be implemented within at least 18 weeks, but not less. However, the technical aspect is not the main point. Even to the most optimistic senior officials and experts in Israel it appears that without the active political participation of at least one Arab country (Egypt or Jordan) it will not be possible to establish autonomy.

In the framework agreements that were achieved at Camp David it was assumed in advance that Jordan would be an active partner in implementing the autonomy plan (this particularly applies to the internal security arrangements and the joint Jordanian-Israeli patrols.) Jordan was mentioned as an active party to the negotiations, and if it decided, for one reason or another, not to participate in the negotiations or not to publicly support the idea of autonomy, putting autonomy into effect would be more difficult--even if Israel and Egypt were to cooperate on this front.

If Jordan decides to support autonomy or decides not to interfere with its establishment, Israel's job of implementing autonomy will be made much easier. Then a process would begin of gradually transferring authority from the military government to the new functions of autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. At this stage it does not appear that Jordan will support autonomy, unless it is forced to do so under threats and pressure by the United States and/or Saudi Arabia. In such a case, Israel will try to implement autonomy in cooperation with Egypt. This is difficult, if not impossible.

One of the security elements dealing with political issues in the administered territories thinks that autonomy should be implemented at once, with the aid of those West Bank elements known as open collaborators with Israel--Mustafa Dudin from Mt Hebron and 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Fars from Nabulus and others like them. These are people who are hated by most of the public in the West Bank. The same security element thinks that speeded-up processes for the establishment of autonomy in cooperation with Dudin, Fars and their partners will spur on the more serious people among the supporters of Jordan and the PLO to hurry to support the establishment of autonomy.

The security element, who has sent his views on this issue to the responsible elements (and gained a restrained reply) thinks that the West Bank is like a vegetable market--offer your goods cheap to poor buyers and then the richer buyers will come out and try to buy them as long as the prices are cheap. But it appears that the situation does not resemble a vegetable market, and as long as Jordan is opposed to autonomy it will not be possible, from Israel's point of view, to implement the idea.

From the practical aspect, Israel will find it hard to establish a police force worthy of the name without Jordanian support (in the framework agreements for peace in the Middle East it is pointed out that "---a strong local police force will be established, probably including Jordanian citizens.") It now appears that there are practically no local police officers, and without Jordan's aid no local manpower will be found to man these posts.

Doctors and lawyers, judges and engineers, teachers and school directors who now receive their salaries from Jordan will refuse to cooperate with Israel in the implementation of autonomy. In the spheres of religion, welfare, agriculture and commerce it will also be very hard, if not impossible, to establish new bodies while ignoring Jordan completely. Jordan, to whom the West Bank and the Gaza Strip export their agricultural and industrial products, may cut down on the goods passing over the Jordan bridges, if it does not ban their passage altogether.

New bodies of self-rule on Israeli initiative, even with Egyptian aid, (Egypt has almost no interchange with the West Bank; its influence is greater in the Gaza Strip) will not be accepted by the population and its recognized leaders. It may be assumed that within a short time voluntary parallel bodies will be established by the Jordanian-PLO leadership, which will call for a boycott of the self-rule bodies. A similar body was established in East Jerusalem a short time after the Israeli conquest in 1967--the Supreme Moslem Council, which is the supreme religious authority for the inhabitants of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and even the Gaza Strip, despite the fact that it is not officially recognized by the Government of Israel.

Although the State of Israel has determined that in all matters of matrimony the inhabitants of East Jerusalem must accept the authority of the Moslem body in Jaffa, the inhabitants of East Jerusalem rapidly bypassed this body via duplicate permits issued in East Jerusalem, which were immediately approved by the Kadi of Jaffa.

The Committee of Director Generals, headed by Dr Ben-Elisar, has already formulated a working paper on the issue of settlement in the West Bank. In it there is a hint that control over all the government lands and rocky lands in the West Bank (hundreds of thousands of dunams) will be given to the State of Israel for the purpose of continuing settlement there. The working paper also says that paramilitary zones will be established where there will be settlements and territories intended for the establishment of new settlements. Scattered among the settlements army bases and Nahal footholds will be set up. These zones will be connected with Israel via highways and roads.

It does not appear that the inhabitants of the territories will be prepared to accept self-rule under conditions of: a reserve of land for Israel (700,000 dunams of state land plus 200,000 dunams of rocky land) and the restriction of the Arab inhabitants to the current areas of residence, without giving them the possibility of development and an increase in the number of inhabitants and not allowing for the other Palestinians from the refugee camps in the Arab countries, who will want to establish their homes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

This kind of autonomy, administered by public figures known as complete collaborators with Israel, with empty lands intended for the establishment of settlements and Nahal footholds, is doomed to failure before it is born. Even now, despite all the political and other difficulties, it is worthwhile for the director generals, the senior officials and security personnel to remember that autonomy in the garb of pressure is only a scarecrow and, like all the other issues of the negotiations with Egypt--especially that of the Palestinians living in the territories--we ought to behave generously and particularly show that everything is above board; if not, failure is guaranteed.

EAST JERUSALEM PAPER ATTACKS HUSAYN SUPPORTERS

TA131926Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Oct 78 TA

[Text] The East Jerusalem paper AL-FAJR today in an editorial attacks the public figures from Judaea and Samaria who have expressed support for King Husayn's speech. This is the first time that the paper has attacked the remarks of such people as the mayor of Hebron, Fahd al-Qawasimi, and the mayor of Tulkarm, Hilmi Hanun, who are considered to be PLO supporters. Hilmi Hanun even acts as the chairman of the executive council of the paper. The editorials' author expresses the fear that support for Husayn from these people and others may harm the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and increase the chances that the Camp David agreement will be actualized.

AL-QUDS URGES ARABS TO EXPLOIT FREEDOM OF SPEECH, ASSEMBLY

JN141924Y Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Oct 78 p 1 JN

[Editorial: "The Freedom of Assembly and of Speech"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the permission given by the military authorities to the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to freely hold political meetings and express their opinions about the future of the Palestinian cause is a correct step that places on all of us a great responsibility that we should assume with courage and consideration.

In spite of the fact that we are encircled by the occupation and that occupation is by nature contradictory to freedom, we believe that this is a step to be exploited in expressing our opinions and crystallizing them to learn the position of the majority of the citizens in the West Bank and the strip. This majority is silent and its true voice is still unheard.

Since what they call the new political policy of the military authorities is still new, there is still doubt about its aims, objectives, the extent to which it is linked with preparations for implementation of the self-rule plan in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, what it will mean for Arab citizens and what their reactions to it will be.

If Israel has opened the door to political meetings, we hope they will not lead to internal disputes, to splits and arguments leading to disintegration, or attempts to win and impose opinions. The cause is more important than that and more serious. We have to make use of this available relative freedom to the extent possible by respecting various opinions and appealing to logic, removed from the demagogy and ideological terrorism that some people are trying to practice.

One last word: This is a call for more freedom for the press and less censorship, so that we can say that we discuss, think and write with freedom.

PLANS LAID FOR RESUMPTION OF SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES

TA131655Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 13 Oct 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] Elements dealing with settlements in the occupied territories await with great anticipation the 91st day after the signing of the Camp David accords. This will be the first day after the freeze on the establishment of new settlements in Judea and Samaria. How do various elements in the government and outside it prepare for the morning after the freeze, and how do they evaluate the situation then? This is reviewed by our correspondent for settlement affairs, Shi'on Schiffer: [begin recording]

[Schiffer] Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is heading the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, announced he insists that the cabinet decide in the next 3 months to begin bolstering the existing settlements in Judea, Samaria, in the Jordan Valley and on the Golan Heights. Minister Sharon's representative in Dr Ben-Elisar's committee, which is examining the future of the autonomy in Judea and Samaria, Me'ir Ben-Me'ir, told us at the end of this week:

[Ben Me'ir] I honestly believe that the Government of Israel intends to prove with actions that there is no connection between what has been decided about the Rafah approaches and what is due to happen in Judaea and Samaria and on the Golan Heights.

[Schiffer] Minister Sharon is on his guard and explains that the accord signed at Camp David will be of value to Israel only if the government begins executing a number of energetic settlement operations in the occupied territories. U.S. administration officials are adamant in their claim that in the talks between President Carter and Prime Minister Menahem Begin there was agreement that no settlements would be established in the territories during the period of the entire negotiations, and not just during the negotiations with Egypt. These officials were considerably angered by the Israeli declarations issued after the summit meeting contradicting this. An authoritative U.S. source told me that it was decided about a week ago not to release the exchange of letters on those issues, letters that were meant to reflect the U.S. position on the one hand, and the Israeli position on the other. We were not interested in showing how profound the controversy is, the U.S. source said. However, at the end of the week there was a change in the U.S. position regarding the territories to be given autonomy. The U.S. authoritative source predicted that in the near future the administration will refrain from exerting pressure on Israel regarding the implementation of the autonomy in Judaea and Samaria and establishment of new Israeli settlements in those areas. If President as-Sadat refrained from pressure on that subject, the U.S. source said, there is no reason why we Americans should continue bickering with Israel on that issue. However, on the question how the U.S. administration will react if Israel establishes new settlements after the 3 month freeze, the U.S. source replied: This is a question I'm asking myself every day, and I have no answer for this yet.

Since the publication of the Camp David accords, there have been several processes in the settlements beyond the green line, processes that attempts are now beyond the green line, processes that attempts are now being made to halt. The uncertain future of the settlements gave rise to a credibility gap between the settlers and the settlement institutions. Me'ir Ben-Me'ir reveals a further phenomenon.

[Ben-Me'ir] And I'd like to mention something that was a real shock to us. A day or two after the cabinet decision regarding the ratification of the Camp David agreement, the entire credit was discontinued--the entire credit, I repeat and emphasize this--for the normal existence of all the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, in the Rafah approaches and in the Golan Heights.

I don't want to use any crude terms, nor do I have terms in my vocabulary crude enough to describe such behavior properly. We have to act in exactly the opposite direction. Our first concern is to insure the continued normal and orderly existence of the settlements as a basis and condition for the continuation of the settlement project.

[Schiffer] These days the Ministry of Agriculture is making efforts to renew the credit for the settlements beyond the green line. Mr Ben-Me'ir stresses that only acts by the cabinet will convince the settlers that they can expect a safe future in the framework of the State of Israel, in the places where they are living. How can such a thing be guaranteed? The Ben-Elisar committee has been dealing with these questions for several weeks now. Minister Sharon, who we asked about these issues, refused to reply, but it is known that he thinks that there are two questions, the answers to which will determine the future of the Israeli settlement in the territories. The first question is: Who will be the owners of the 700,000 dunams of land called state lands in Judaea and Samaria and the 200,000 dunams of the stony ground? Me'ir Ben-Me'ir's reply is:

[Ben-Me'ir] My main concern is--and it is not only my concern, I assume that it is the cabinet's concern--to guarantee, in the framework of what is called autonomy, that its contents will permit Jews to live there. And one of the problems we are dealing with is what is the future of, or who are the heirs to state lands. In the nature of things I will not express myself about this in public.

[Schiffer] The apparent answer to this question is that the existing situation will continue, according to which the state of Israel will, in accordance with international law, remain responsible for the state lands in Judaea and Samaria during the 5 years of autonomy. Thus a sufficient reserve of land will remain for strengthening the existing settlements in Judaea and Samaria. As for the lands under private ownership, Jews will be permitted to purchase lands in Judaea and Samaria via the authorized autonomy institutions. And, on the second question, how will the settlements be guaranteed a link with the State of Israel:

[Ben-Me'ir] To the best of my knowledge and through the information available to us, the settlers in Judaea and Samaria, in the Jordan Rift Valley, will continue to be linked with the State of Israel in accordance with their status, in every sense of the word.

[Schiffer] One of the proposals crystallized in the deliberations held over recent weeks in various bodies determines that the Israeli settlements in the territories will be connected with the State of Israel through rapid traffic arteries, while they are surrounded by army camps and Nahal footholds, so that it will be possible to declare that the Israeli settlement is within a military framework, something that fits in with the proposed agreement on the settlements. These things are not now being told to the settlers in the territories. However, those responsible for settlement want to say these things and thus halt the process of the possible breakdown of the settlements. The Settlement Department of the Zionist Histadrut is continuing with plans to transfer several of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria to permanent sites. The head of the department from the Herut movement, Matityahu Drobles, believes that the prime minister will support the department's program to broaden Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria at the end of this year.

[Drobles] I have here a working paper, one we planned for this purpose. We are working, as far as Judaea and Samaria are concerned, on eight permanent building programs. We want to finish all the planning by December-January, of the next fiscal year, so that we will be able to bring at least five to seven settlements in Judaea and Samaria to permanent status.

We will also continue to plan the other settlements; the permanent settlements that we want to build are Shomron, Allon More; to finish the Tapu'ah, Ofra programs, which have already been introduced; Bet El, with the end of the legal processes. We will also go into permanent buildings in Taqo'ah, Bet Horon and Neve Zur.

[Schiffer] The intention in the future, Matityahu Drobles adds, is to create a closed and crowded Jewish settlement area along Judaea and Samaria so that the Jewish settlements will be able to exist within a crowded Arab population.

[Drobles] It is our intention to expand, around these settlements, to achieve bunches of four to five settlements, each composed of between 500 and 600 families and in the middle, a regional center of the same number, about 300 to 400 families, so that together each such bloc will be between 2,000 to 3,000 families, which will also be socially and culturally independent.

[Schiffer] Mr Drobles reveals that in the next few days he will publish a program that was prepared for him in the Settlement Department in cooperation with the Israel Land Authority, a program for settlement in Judaea and Samaria over the next 5 years, whose principles have been expressed here. He believes that this program will represent the basis for carrying out the decisions that the cabinet makes on this issue. [end recording]

YIGA'EL YADIN COMMENTS ON PEACE AGREEMENTS, TREATY

TA131921Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin thinks that the matter of the link between the two Camp David agreements will be no obstacle to the peace treaty with Egypt, and the negotiations in Washington will end within 3 weeks. He was speaking at a meeting of the Democratic Movement Secretariat. Concerning the period beginning with the peace treaty, Yadin said that he estimates that in the next 3 years Israel will have to spend about 3 billion Israeli pounds on IDF redeployment.

Judaea, Samaria

TA131924Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 13 Oct 78 TA

[Excerpts] Professor Yadin also thinks that the problem of Judaea and Samaria will not be an obstacle in the negotiations with Egypt.

HA'AREZ QUESTIONS ISRAELI CABINET'S CREDIBILITY

TA131447Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 13 Oct 78 p 14 TA

['Uzzi Benziman commentary: "The Government's Credibility Is in Danger"]

[Text] Credibility-- a highflown word, the accepted fashionable term used by the media, and used ceaselessly. And yet there is no choice but to resort to it to try to describe a focalpoint in the relations between the Israeli people and their government.

It would seem that concurrently with increased public admiration for the government for its striving to reach a peace treaty with Egypt, there are growing suspicions regarding some of its central figures, and a lack of confidence in its declared positions. The enthusiasm for the chances of peace will presumably override this nagging fear of the gap existing between declarations and reality, but in the longer term, the hidden stream may well shape the public's attitude toward its leadership. [paragraph continues]

The last few days have provided us with two effective examples of the contradiction between the government's declared policy and its actual operations. A week ago the cabinet met in special session to examine the principles of the budgetary policy worked out by Simcha Ehrlich. The finance minister submitted a tough budget to the cabinet, which contrasted very strongly with the government's basic principles. This decisive fact did not deter him even though it did cause reservations among some cabinet ministers.

Ehrlich has good reason for proposing a restrained budget to the cabinet. Firstly, the spiralling inflation that has not slowed despite his promises. But his approach, understandable in itself, was one of blunt contradiction to the ceremonious promises made by this government in the coalition agreement signed on June 19, 1977.

Out of the 42 clauses of the agreement, only six do not concern the interests of the religious parties that are partners in the coalition. Thirty-six clauses deal with various subjects, such as banning dissemination of material coming under the heading of "abomination," halakhic conversion, carrying out post mortems, public transport on the Sabbath, promoting yeshiva institutions, and so forth.

One of the six remaining clauses lays down procedure for drafting a bill for electoral reform in the Knesset, the other five contain social policies: the principal points being:

- The government will endeavour to institute a 5-day week.
- The government will establish a minimum-wage law.
- The government will strive to institute a national pension.
- The government will submit a bill to the Knesset on national health insurance.
- Efforts will be made to construct rental housing at reasonable rents.

This is the government's welfare policy. And now Minister Ehrlich ignores this policy completely. At the cabinet session at the end of the week he proposed freezing social legislation, meaning: If a number of ministries have attempted to interpret the social policy as contained in the coalition agreement into legal language, i.e. into a draft bill, the finance minister now declares that this must be stopped. The government will not be able to accept and adhere to such a bill. Despite understanding the complex economic situation prompting Mr Ehrlich to instruct all the ministries to halt legislation activities where social welfare is concerned, one cannot refrain from pointing out to him how this considerably contradicts his declared intentions.

A similar case: the situation in Lebanon. The situation there is no less complicated than the economic situation in Israel. The compulsions weighing down messrs Begin, Dayan and Weizman in steering their policy toward Lebanon are no less difficult than those burdening the minister of finance. The result is similar: Reality forces a policy on the government that is miles away from its publicly stated plans.

The Christian minority in Lebanon is increasingly hard-pressed. The Christian inhabitants of Beirut are fleeing in large numbers. The Syrians are reneging on their promises, ignoring the Security Council resolutions and continuing to act as though Lebanon were their private plaything. True, arguments, against an Israeli intervention are many and important: the impact this intervention would have on the negotiations with Egypt; how the U.S. would react; what excuse Israel has for taking such action when Lebanon is ostensibly ruled by a sovereign government and its Christian minority is split, not all of them anxious to be defended by Israel; and many, many more well-known arguments.

But countering them, we still hear the echoes of the declarations made by the prime minister and foreign minister. Menahem Begin declared with pathos that Israel would not permit the Christian minority to be annihilated. Do the people here in Israel and abroad really know that this declaration only refers to the physical destruction of Christians, but has no validity where Syria's aim of disintegrating the political entity of the Christian minority is concerned? For the moment, at any rate (this is being written before the outcome of yesterday's cabinet session has been revealed) the government has taken no tangible steps to actively intervene on behalf of those who are, by virtue of Begin's declaration, the proteges of the State of Israel. The foreign minister, too, addressing the Lebanese issue, said not long ago that the people of Israel could not ignore the painful sight of a national minority crying out for help, while the world remained deaf to its pleas.

The government's policy toward Lebanon cannot be judged only by the Syrian aspect, or viewed through glasses that only see the gap between the promise and its fulfillment. This policy must also be examined in the light of Israel's security interests. Must Israel resign herself to facing Syrian forces all along her northern border? It is difficult to refrain from thinking that this government, ostensibly so vigorous and energetic in foreign affairs, might not be displaying a consistent moderation; both in the negotiations with Egypt and in its handling of the Lebanese problem. We cannot be certain that this mildness is right and justified.

But even if one could also conclude that there is every justification for the restraint shown by the government in its handling of the Lebanon issue, it is difficult not to mention that this policy refutes the official intentions so clearly publicized by both the prime minister and foreign minister. The degree of the government's credibility is not an abstract issue, it is a very real phenomenon that determines the individual's attitude toward his leaders, and also inevitably the leadership's status in the country, and, a direct result of this, its international "identity card". For instance, following the Camp David agreements, which were preceded by soothing and optimistic promises the prime minister made to representatives of Yamit, just how credible are the new declarations made by Mr Begin on the government's intention of continuing to maintain the settlement momentum in Judea and Samaria? Only a fool would fail to admit that there has, unfortunately, been a very real erosion in the prime minister's powers of persuasion.

This phenomenon is not just felt by the settlers or the young people intending to make their homes beyond the green line; it is felt by the people as a whole, and it is also radiated to the outside--Washington and Cairo.

It is impossible, post factum, to delete clauses from the coalition agreement or swallow public promises by the leaders of this country. It is enough if they curb their tongues from now on. The future is bound to provide them with many opportunities to confront their policy with their intentions, and they would be wise, at such a meeting, to bear in mind the value of words.

LABOR PARTY MEMBERS COMMENT ON JOINING GOVERNMENT

TAL21346Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 12 Oct 78 p 8 TA

[By Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] Renewed calls for joining the Likud government have been heard recently in the Labor Party, even from dovish elements. MK 'Uzzi Bar'am said yesterday that there is no longer a taboo in the Labor Party against joining the Likud government. The secretary general of the Young Guard, Mr Hayyim Ramon, also announced that he favors the party joining the government.

Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres said that at this stage joining is not practical. MK Yizhaq Rabin said that he knows of no appeal by the Likud to the Labor Party.

In answer to questions, Mr Peres said: "I do not think that there are practical deliberations on the Labor Party joining the government. It is my personal opinion that it is not practical at this stage. I believe that Begin wants to sign a peace agreement with Egypt, and perhaps later he will seek partners for the government."

He also said that the Alinement in the opposition is fulfilling responsible and important functions and there had been no deliberations within the party on the possibility of joining the government.

MK Bar'am, who is regarded as one of the moderates in the Labor Party, (and close to MK Peres) said: "I am not sure that I would oppose the Labor Party joining the government, but I would not propose doing this before the conclusion of the present conference in Washington." He also said that if the Labor Party joins the government it would be to insure a majority in the government of those who support compromises in Judaea and Samaria. He also said: "The expected struggle" in the Labor Party might cause a change in the roles with respect to joining the government. "The doves, who have up to now opposed joining the government, will support such a move to insure concessions for the sake of peace, while the hawks, who up to now have tended toward joining the government, might oppose this to prevent concessions."

Yesterday, circles in the Labor Party estimated that if a decision is made to join the government, it is possible that MAPAM would support such a move to insure peace with Jordan.

MK 'Adi Amora'i of the Labor Party yesterday rejected the possibility of the Labor Party joining the government, maintaining that the differences between the Labor Party and the Likud on political and economic issues would prevent this.

PERES, TALMI DENY ALINEMENT SEEKS TO JOIN GOVERNMENT

TA151457Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Oct 78 p 1 TA

[By A. Kinrati]

[Text] "It has not been suggested to us that we join a national unity government headed by Begin. Nobody has discussed this with us, neither with me nor with anyone else in the leadership of the Labor Party. Nor is there any room for a debate on this in our party," the chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, said yesterday.

In reply to a question by our correspondent, Peres said that there was no basis for the reports and rumors of this coming from various sources, and that neither he nor the authorized Labor Party institutions were responsible for any opinion expressed by any member of the Labor Party on this issue. Peres recalled his announcement on this matter several days ago, that there was no point today in the Labor Party joining a national unity government and that this issue was not raised at all in the party's official forums. The issue is not on the agenda of the party's highest institutions, he stressed.

"There have not been nor are there any discussions in MAPAM on the possibility of joining a national unity government, and this issue has not been raised in any MAPAM forum, nor in informal talks in the leadership," said the secretary general of MAPAM, Me'ir Talmi, in reaction to a report attributing support for such a move by MAPAM within the Labor Party. [paragraph continues]

He told our correspondent: "As long as Begin declares that 'Judea and Samaria will not be under foreign rule'--this means that he is against any territorial compromise in Judea and Samaria, and he intends to remain there--MAPAM cannot be in a government headed by Begin supporting his policy.

Talmi also thinks that, there is no trend or proposal now in the Labor Party to join a national unity government headed by Begin, despite the Alinement's support for the Camp David agreements in the Knesset, although there may be isolated voices in favor. Were Begin to announce a territorial compromise in Judea and Samaria--then the situation would be different.

GUR, HERZOG REPORTEDLY READY TO JOIN LABOR BUREAU

TA121130Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Oct 78 p 2 TA

[By M. Shemaryahu]

[Text] Former Chief of Staff Motta Gur, Israel's former ambassador to the United Nations, Hayyim Herzog and the director of the board of Bank Hapo'alim, Ya'akov Levinson, will soon join the Labor Party Bureau. This has been reported by circles in the party center.

It has been learned that Herzog and Levinson have already agreed to join the Bureau, while Motta Gur has reacted by saying that as long as he is in uniform (he is still on leave from the IDF), he is not making efforts to join the party.

23 TERRORIST SQUADS SEIZED SO FAR IN 1978

TA151330Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Oct 78 p 12 TA

[Text] Since the beginning of 1978, 23 terrorist squads, as well as single terrorists, have been captured by the security and police forces. Since last January, 210 terrorist attempts occurred throughout the country, including planting explosive charges, firing Katyushas, setting tires on fire, throwing molotov cocktails, shooting at Jewish drivers and at Arabs described as collaborators, and so on.

The ITIM correspondent in Jerusalem points out that the terrorist squads captured in the last year are responsible for an appreciable part of the terrorist strikes and attempted strikes that occurred in Israel over the most recent period. The latest squad captured was the most dangerous and is credited with bringing in hundreds of kilograms of explosives and many weapons, including Katyushas.

During October there has been an appreciable reduction in attempted terrorist strikes, especially due to the capture of terrorists and the precautions of the security forces. Since the beginning of the month there have been seven attempted terrorist strikes, which caused no casualties or serious damage.

BRIEFS

NEW DANISH AMBASSADOR--The new ambassador of Denmark, Ole Koch, arrived in Israel today. The 46-year-old ambassador had been the head of the Department for Foreign Relations of the Common Market. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Oct 78 TA]

2 DIE IN MINAB DEMONSTRATION; TEHRAN SHOPS CLOSED

LD161200Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 16 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Following the statements issued by the exalted religious leaders, and 40 days after the Zhaleh Square incident in Tehran, most shops were closed today in Tehran and the provinces. The military governorate of Tehran and the suburbs therefore intensified its supervision and control in order to prevent any incident and stop disorder. Consequently, army units were stationed in various parts of the country.

According to our correspondents, a great many people closed their shops in order to mark and commemorate the memory of those who died on 8 September.

The exalted religious figures had named today the 40th day of the incident in Zhaleh Square, referring to it as a national day of mourning and calling on people to consider it a public holiday. On the basis of a statement issued by three religious authority sources in Qom, published on 12 October there is a total shut down in Qom and, apart from some cars, there is no movement visible in that city. Since yesterday, the military governorate officers and security forces have been stationed in sensitive parts of the city, especially around the holy shrine and the Khan Theological College, and are controlling all movements.

The holy shrine's door on Eram Street is closed; other entrances are being controlled by security officers. Qom is quiet now and so far no incident has taken place. The only incident took place yesterday at 2000 after a mass prayer meeting, when a number of people took to Eram Street to stage a demonstration and assembled in front of Ark Street--they were immediately dispersed by the security officers.

Our correspondents report from various parts of the capital city that all shops on Eisenhower Street, Shahreza, Mellat, Shahabad, Bab Homayun, Naser Khosrow, Buzarjomehri, Sabzeh Meydan, Bazaar and Pahlavi streets have remained closed. There are some shops in Kurosh Kabir, Gorgan and Shahreza streets which have opened.

Following sporadic demonstrations in some towns last night and yesterday, a number of people were either killed or injured. Our correspondent reports from Minab that during a demonstration last night, the police used tear gas, but that the demonstration continued with a march. Clashes took place between the police and the demonstrators in this town in front of a bank in a square, resulting in two deaths and injuries to others.

MINISTER OF STATE REGRETS RIOT DEATHS

LD171210Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 16 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Minister of State for Executive Affairs Manuchehr Azmun, in a telephone interview with our correspondent today, said: For this national reconciliation government, any blood which has been shed is considered to be a cause for mourning. We now draw your attention to this conversation:

[Question] I would be grateful if you could comment on the government view on today's national mourning day. Your own views, as a member of the government, would also be appreciated.

[Answer] As I have already pointed out, this national reconciliation government is opposed to any measures which might lead to bloodshed or might result in discomfort for the people. Consequently, if any one of our dear citizens has lost his life in any part of the country as a result of certain disorder or problems, this is a source of deep regret to the government. Subsequently, there is no doubt that for this national reconciliation government any blood which has been shed is considered to be a cause for mourning.

[Question] Was there a meeting today at the office of the prime minister in connection with today's incidents--that is making today a public holiday?

[Answer] For this particular subject, no meeting was held. There does not seem to be any need for such a meeting. We believe that the ruling public should analyze its interests. Needless to say the government considers itself on the same side as the people; it considers itself as part of the people. The main objective of the government is to resolve society's problems and thus remove the causes of discontent. [end recording]

PLAN, BUDGET STAFF ENDS STRIKE

LD161850Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Oct 78 LD

[Text] A plan and budget organization spokesman has announced that the strike by the staff ended today and that all employees will resume work tomorrow.

TEHRAN REPORTS FURTHER DETAILS OF STRIKES

LD161904Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Oct 78 LD

[Text] While strikes in a number of government agencies and private enterprises have ended, strikes in other organizations continue. The staff of the Qazvin Rural Cooperative Organization has joined other strikers of the organization elsewhere in the country.

Demands put forward by the PARS News Agency staff were discussed with the director general of the organization today and a resolution was issued afterwards.

The strike at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development entered its 5th day today. Strike action also continues at the industrial training fund.

Tehran's morning and evening papers devoted most of their news reports today to the general strike in Iran. The strike at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has now entered its 10th day and the strike at the Ministry of Justice is continuing.

The Iranian customs organization, Tehran's Medical Emergency Service, and the Institute of Standards and Industrial Research are also among those organizations where strike action still continues. They have said they will continue their strike until their union demands are met.

The administrative staff of Tehran University walked out this morning. They delivered their 29-point list of demands to university authorities yesterday. Their demands include the conversion of contract employees to permanent staff and receiving fringe benefits equal to those of the academic staff at the university. According to a PARS News Agency report, the deputy director for administrative and financial affairs of Tehran University said today that a letter by the chancellor addressed to all faculties and units affiliated to the university says that the university would use all resources at its disposal to meet the staff's demands. Those issues which require legislation will take longer to meet, it says.

AFGHANISTAN

AFP: FOREIGN RESIDENTS NEED PERMISSION TO LEAVE KABUL

BK151307Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1258 GMT 15 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 15 (AFP)--Foreign residents in Afghanistan now have to obtain permission to leave Kabul to visit the provinces, travellers from the Afghan capital said here today.

This is the first such restriction on the movement of foreigners since a pro-Soviet communist regime took over last April.

During the summer incidents were reported between the provincial authorities and foreigners who were suspected of "spying".

Foreign tourists who wish to visit Afghanistan may still be granted 1-month visas and their freedom of movement is apparently not affected by the new measure.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY READER'S DIGEST EDITOR

LDT160052Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1600 GMT 4 Oct 78 LD

["Text" of interview given by Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Anthony Paul, editor of the Asian edition of READER'S DIGEST, on 4 October at the Foreign Ministry--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: How many Soviet advisers are living in your country at present and how does this compare with the number of advisers that were here last April?

Answer: That is a strange question. Why do you not also ask about experts and advisers from other countries in Afghanistan? We have advisers and experts from various countries in our country. While having an independent and nonaligned policy, we welcome any country that helps us without prejudice and political strings, including their experts. The first 5-year-plan of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] has not been finalized yet so I am not able to say how many foreign experts we need. But I can say that the foreign experts and specialists who were on duty in Afghanistan before the Sower Revolution included Soviet experts and advisers; most of them completed their term of service around the time of the Sower Revolution, and as a result of change and transfer, some left and others came to replace them. At present it is difficult to give a definite number. Of course, in the course of the implementation of the 5-year-plan, it would be possible to provide such an answer.

Question: If there are a large number of these advisers in your country at present, would this not be regarded as a warning to Western powers concerning the greater Soviet influence in Afghanistan?

Answer: While we adhere to our policy of nonalignment with firm belief and determination and are proud of our complete independence, why should the existence of our foreign colleagues in Afghanistan be regarded as a danger to any other country? Is it not clear interference in the internal affairs of a country to visualize such a danger? We would welcome the unconditional assistance of any Western country, of whatever amount, should it wish to extend it to us with a high spirit of friendliness.

The deep historical friendship of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which is based on the principles of defense of peace in the region and the world, peaceful coexistence, noninterference in each other's affairs, respect for the national sovereignty and independence, struggle for full and complete disarmament and the expansion of detente, is daily growing and developing. In such a peerless climate of friendship, the Soviet Union is rendering us all-round assistance. Hence, if someone is our friend, why should we not be happy about this?

Question: A number of commentators have regarded the recent events as a coup d'etat; if your government prefers to use the term revolution, what reasons would you give to characterize the recent development as a revolution?

Answer: Yes. To call the Sowr Revolution a coup d'etat is far from the truth and shortsighted. For the Sowr Revolution began with the decisive support of the people of Afghanistan, under the leadership of the People's Democratic party [PDP] of Afghanistan in accordance with the progressive guidance of the secretary general of its Central Committee, with the participation of the officers and soldiers of the armed forces who were party members, in broad daylight at 0900 and the announcement of its victory was broadcast at 1900 by Kabul Radio.

Most important of all is this: With the victory of the Sowr Revolution, political power was not transferred from one element, circle or ruling class to another, like the transfer which took place from Zahir to Daud, nor was it transferred from a ruling family or circle to another ruling family or class, but the political power was transferred completely from the exploiting classes and strata to the exploited class of the workers which is represented by the PDP, the vanguard of the country's working class. The previous regime was based on the progressive consolidation of the exploiting method of production, whereas the main pillar of the revolutionary order of the DRA since the Sowr Revolution is struggle for the complete elimination of the exploitation of man by man. The revolution is marching toward a society in which classes are completely eliminated. Are there any stronger and more logical reasons than these to say that the Sowr Revolution is not a coup d'etat but in a real and scientific sense a revolution, a social revolution.

The construction of a socialist society is not the strategic aim of our revolution for the time being, although it is the ultimate aim of our party and government. This is not forgotten for a moment and every step that is taken must be in its direction and for its attainment.

Question: Is the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan a Marxist-Leninist party?

Answer: Our party is called the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Our party has never been called Marxist-Leninist nor does there exist or has there existed any party in Afghanistan under this name.

Question: What reasons can you give for your negative answer?

Answer: Our best reason is the basic lines of our revolutionary duties which have been described in a speech by our great popular leader of the revolution; in addition, our action is the standard and criterion of our identity; anyone who is interested can find our identity from it.

Question: The Honorable Taraki has denied that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is a communist party. How can the party be differentiated from communist organization and theory?

Answer: The great leader of our party and people, Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the PDP of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, has repeatedly said that there is no party in Afghanistan called the communist party, nor has any existed. The philosophy and theory of our party is clear in the basic lines of our revolutionary party and our statements and actions.

Question: How do you diagnose your present relations with the USSR?

Answer: Relations between Afghanistan and the USSR are very friendly and excellent at present. The two countries are friends, brothers and equal and have deep respect for each other's sovereignty and national independence. There is no desire for either party to interfere in each other's internal affairs. This honesty, friendship and equality has caused deep trust on both sides. The enemies of our friendship and of our peoples spread propaganda which is far from the truth and reality; they wish to create the idea that Afghanistan is a satellite of the Soviet Union. This treacherous propaganda of our enemies cannot change the realities which were mentioned.

Our nonaligned policy and our intense opposition to aggressive military blocs are fully endorsed by the Soviet Union. The great assistance of the Soviet Union is given in an atmosphere of friendship, fraternity and equality which bears nothing at all against our nonaligned policy. Of course, it is clear that both countries maintain a position of struggle against imperialism and the exploitation of man by man.

Question: How would you describe your relations with China?

Answer: Our relations with China are completely normal and we want them to develop favorably.

Question: Could you briefly cast light on your relations with the United States?

Answer: We have shown our desire many times for developing friendship with the United States. While having in view the principle of noninterference in each other's affairs, we have repeatedly asked the United States in a friendly atmosphere for unconditional economic assistance. Any measure that takes place in this way is subject to great attention by us. We warmly welcome any assistance that is given to us based on the principle of noninterference in each other's affairs and we are waiting for such a friendship.

Question: Do you think that the Soviet Union or the United States is an imperialist power?

Answer: If you check in the 5 months and some days long history of the DRA, you will find that in order to prevent irritation, we have named no country. It is up to you what you call a certain country. Generally speaking, we have proclaimed our irreconcilable fight against feudalism and imperialism. We have spoken repeatedly of our friendship with the Soviet Union. We have defended repeatedly the peaceful, anti-imperialist policy of the Soviet Union, and we consider ourselves to be in the same position and we are so.

Imperialism is a scientific term which does not change because of one person or another's personal wish, but the Soviet Union is a socialist country which traverses with honor the path of building the communist society. We are not only desirous of developing friendship with the United States but we are also looking forward to large assistance from that country.

Question: Why should the United States support your revolution?

Answer: Why should it not?

Question: What guarantee can your government offer so that U.S. aid can support a country that has friendlier relations with Moscow than with Washington?

Answer: We have said repeatedly that our friendship with every country of the world is proportionate to the material and moral support for our revolution. If one country offers great support for our revolution and offers it vast material and moral backing, why should it offend another country? Why does it not compete in pursuit of good deeds? We are ready to welcome warmly every assistance that is given without any strings or restrictions in a friendly and fraternal manner, and with mutual respect, such as the assistance given by the Soviet Union; and also to observe sincerely the principle of noninterference in each other's affairs which we have in our friendship with the Soviet Union.

Question: Do you observe any difference in your government's policy on the subject of Pakhtunistan compared with the attitude of the Daud government?

Answer: Our stand on the subject of Pakhtunistan which you mentioned is very clear. We are sincerely interested in friendship between Afghanistan and Pakistan and are desirous that the only political difference between the two countries, which is the national issue of the Pushtun and Baluch peoples, be solved in a peaceful manner through friendly talks in light of the undeniable history of the region so that the possibility exists for the further expansion of friendship between the DRA and Pakistan. I have no information on Daud's policy in this respect, but I can say this that Daud committed the greatest treacheries against the people and history of Afghanistan and all the values of our country.

Question: Are you satisfied with the attitude adopted by Pakistan on the transit of Afghan merchandise?

Answer: Yes. We are grateful for Pakistan's cooperation, especially for the attention that the president of Pakistan, Gen Ziaul Haq, has paid to this matter. We expect that this cooperation will increase with the visit of the Pakistani minister of commerce to Afghanistan and the possibility will be obtained for Afghan merchandise to transit to India by land across the Indian-Pakistani border.

Question: Have you considered alternative ways for imports and exports?

Answer: Right now we have three ports for imports and exports with the Soviet Union. These are Shirkhan Bandar, Hayratan and Torghondi.

Question: Has the new Karakoram highway not created any new strategic or political difficulty for Afghanistan?

Answer: Karakoram has not been discussed between Afghanistan and any other country so far. But as I have said before, this has always received attention from the people of the region, including the Pushtuns.

Question: Honorable Nur Mohammad Taraki, the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, in one of his recent interviews with a Kuwaiti correspondent, said regarding the Arab world and the modernization of Islam that we should not allow Islam to become an instrument of laxities by exploiters and reactionaries. Could you give an example of such an abuse of Islam which might have been envisaged?

Answer: The learned and great leader of the people of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki, has repeatedly said that our popular regime bears profound respect for the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and that Islam should not become an instrument for the realization of prejudices by the enemies of the people and homeland. The president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan also said that a number who under the veil of Islam put the sacred religion of Islam in the service of imperialism and other aliens contrary to the interests of the people and are known as ekhwanis, are not only abominated by our people, but the Arab Moslem masses have for years called them as ekhwan ash-shayatin [satanic brotherhood] and have dealt severe blows against them in their own countries. One of these anti-ekhwani patriots was Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, the late Egyptian leader, who eradicated this group of so-called Moslem infidels. Now the lackeys of imperialism have once again, in the guise of so-called Moslem infidels, started to promote subversion and service to imperialism with the help of the enemies of the people of Afghanistan in our beloved country. Our learned leader, with his learned and realistic perception of the feeling of our noble compatriots, has declared a holy war against these sycophant lackeys of imperialism, namely the ekhwanis.

Question: Will the teaching of Islam be continued in the schools of Afghanistan?

Answer: Naturally. Why and how did this question arise?

Question: How safe is your revolution? Does any powerful activity still exist in the country to threaten your revolution? If there is, could you kindly explain?

Answer: Our revolution is completely immune. The greatest reason and testimony for this is the wholehearted support of our people for their revolution. No powerful human obstacle exists to threaten the evolution and development of our revolution. Those who plot conspiracy in darkness against us, as our leader said, will be eliminated in darkness.

Question: What important matter does your government regard as significant inside Pakistan?

Answer: In our view the most significant matter in Pakistan in which we are interested is the interest of the people of Pakistan.

Question: What is regarded as urgent in your relations with other countries?

Answer: The most urgent matter that draws attention in our relations with other countries is the expansion of friendly relations for the sake of world peace so that we may join hands together and struggle for the sake of peace and the extension of detente on the basis of noninterference in each other's affairs, respect for each other's sovereignty and national independence, and endeavor for the existence of possible cooperation between us.

INDIA

DELHI: PAKISTAN INTERESTED IN JOINT INDUSTRIAL VENTURES

BK141614Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan is understood to have agreed to consider India's suggestion for joint ventures in that country with buy-back arrangements after the new trade agreement is signed. At the official level talks held recently in Islamabad, the Indian side suggested the setting up of a fertilizer plant in Pakistan using natural gas available in that country. The talks, which remained inconclusive, are likely to be resumed in India in December or January when the two sides are expected to sort out unresolved issues and sign a new trade agreement. The earlier agreement expired in January this year and was allowed to continue for another 5 months.

At the recent Islamabad talks, the differences between the two countries on several issues have been narrowed down to a large extent. Pakistani authorities at the highest level are understood to have appreciated India's efforts to improve economic relations with that country. India is prepared to accommodate a larger number of products for import from Pakistan to insure a productive two-way traffic. Positive steps have already been taken by India to widen the range of goods it can buy from Pakistan. The Commerce Ministry has started a detailed exercise to identify products which can be imported from Pakistan.

The Indian delegation at the recent talks is reported to have asked Pakistan for details of the areas where restraints could be exercised in the matter of export of several commodities.

Pakistan, on its part, has allowed the trade to be handled both by public and private sectors in India. Earlier, the trade was handled by the state trading corporations of the two countries. But Pakistan's own exports to India will continue to be channelized through public sector agencies. The two sides agreed to this arrangement pending a new trade agreement.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI DENIES CONSIDERING JOINT VENTURE WITH INDIA

BK151533Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan is not considering any scheme of starting a joint industrial venture with India. The federal commerce minister told newsmen in Islamabad today that there had been no mention in the past or in recent months of any joint venture. Even early this month when an Indian trade delegation visited Pakistan no discussion was held on any such proposal.

The federal commerce minister was asked to comment on the New Delhi Radio report broadcast on Saturday that both countries are considering joint ventures including a fertilizer plant based on Pakistan's natural gas.

SPOKESMAN ON F-5 DEAL WITH U.S., INDIAN REACTION

BK091720Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Oct 78 BK

[Text] When asked to comment on the statements made by the Indian defense and foreign ministers to the effect that the United States had started supplying F-5 aircraft to Pakistan even before the Indian Government had decided to acquire deep-penetration strike aircraft, a Foreign Office spokesman said these statements are entirely incorrect.

He categorically stated that no F-5 aircraft have been supplied to Pakistan. In fact, there was not even an agreement between Pakistan and the United States for the sale of this aircraft. He added that obviously such misleading statements were made to provide an excuse for India's recent decision to acquire a large number of Anglo-French deep-penetration strike aircraft at the cost of \$2 billion.

AGHA SHAHI: PAKISTAN 'DISILLUSIONED' WITH CENTO

BK161526Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 16 Oct 78 BK

[Text] The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, has said Pakistan is reviewing its position vis-a-vis its membership in CENTO. He was talking to newsmen on his return to Karachi today after leading the Pakistan delegation to the UN General Assembly session. Mr Agha Shahi said Pakistan has been disillusioned by the role played by CENTO. It had not been of any use in the past for the defense of the country.

AFP: SCORES ARRESTED ON PPP 'NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST'

BK161625Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1614 GMT 16 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 16 (AFP)--Scores of supporters of former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto were arrested in towns throughout Pakistan on a "national day of protest" organized yesterday by Mr Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Large police contingents were put on the alert in the main cities, and their presence prevented any major demonstrations, the press noted today. However, a PPP activist in the small southern town of Okara was taken to hospital in "serious" condition after trying to burn himself to death.

In the last few days three people have already died in this way to protest against the death sentence handed down to Mr Bhutto after he was found guilty on a murder conspiracy charge in March. In Lahore, a woman was arrested just before she tried to turn herself into a human torch, Pakistani newspapers said today. The 60-year-old woman, known for her support for Mr Bhutto, was arrested carrying a bottle of petrol and shouting slogans. A former state minister and two elected PPP representatives were arrested before they could even begin their public demonstration.

In what has now become a familiar routine over the last month, 2 to 10 people in different Pakistani towns deliberately get themselves arrested every day by shouting pro-Bhutto slogans in front of the security forces. They are usually sentenced to 10 strokes of the whip and 1 to 2 years of rigorous imprisonment. It is not known how many people have been arrested for supporting Mr Bhutto, but the most credible estimates vary from several hundreds to 3,000, observers said.

According to the Urdu language Karachi daily JANG, Mr Bhutto has begun a new hunger strike in his Rawalpindi prison. The former head of government was protesting against the strengthening of security measures at the prison since the escape on Saturday of two prisoners who have not yet been recaptured. Mr Bhutto has been on hunger strike several times already to get better conditions in his condemned cell.

Mr Bhutto's appeal to the Supreme Court against the death sentences is going extremely slowly, and the verdict which was expected to come at the end of this month will probably not now be delivered before next month, observers here said.

AUTHORITIES ORDER CRACKDOWN ON IRRESPONSIBLE PRESS

EK161127Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 16 Oct 78 EK

[Text] A pressnote issued in Islamabad today by the Ministry of Interior says it has come to the notice of the federal government that certain publications in different parts of the country have been for some time past causing and are continuing to cause a great threat to the peace and tranquillity of the country.

In the interest of the freedom of the press, however, the government has so far exercised great restraint and refrained from taking action against such publications under the existing laws. While the press in general has displayed a sense of responsibility, a small section of the press has been taking undue advantage of the liberal policy of the government and betrayed a deplorable lack of sense of responsibility. The federal government has therefore, the pressnote says, directed all the provincial governments to take necessary steps under the relevant provisions of the West Pakistan Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance 1960 to prevent the menace to the peace and tranquillity of the country.

In this regard, the provincial governments have, with immediate effect, initiated necessary action in certain selected cases for the purpose of preventing or combating any activity prejudicial to the maintenance of public order by calling upon the printers, publishers and editors of these publications to submit for scrutiny all matter, including photographs, sketches and drawings, in respect of any matter which, among other things, tends directly or indirectly to encourage or incite any person to interfere with the administration of the law or with the maintenance of law and order; is indecent, obscene, scurrilous, defamatory and intended for blackmail; amounts to false rumors or to information calculated to cause public alarm, frustration or despondency without reasonable grounds to believe the information to be correct; or tends directly or indirectly to bring into hatred or contempt the government established by law in Pakistan or the administration of justice in Pakistan, or any class or section of the citizens of Pakistan; or to excite towards the set government; or is likely to create or excite feelings of enmity, ill will or hatred between the populations of different provinces or the populations of any regions or parts of Pakistan or between different communities, sects, classes or sections of the citizens of Pakistan; or tends directly or indirectly to seduce any officer, soldier, sailor or airman of the armed forces of Pakistan or any police officer from his allegiance or his duty, or to undermine the morale or prejudice the discipline of the forces or its members; or tends directly or indirectly to induce a public servant or a servant of a local authority to do any act or to forbear or delay to do any act connected with the exercise of his public functions or to resign his office.